



This 2010 yearbook photo provided by Topeka Public Schools from a Topeka West High School shows John Booker.

Associated Press

Man charged with plotting bombing at military base

NICHOLAS CLAYTON
JOHN HANNA
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kansas (AP) — A man charged Friday with plotting a suicide bomb attack on a U.S. military base to help the Islamic State group was mentally ill and was acting strangely only days before his arrest, according to a Muslim cleric who said he was counseling him at the request of the FBI.

John T. Booker Jr., of Topeka, is accused of planning a suicide attack at Fort Riley, about 70 miles (112 kilometers) west of Topeka. Prosecutors allege he told a Federal Bureau of Investigation informant he wanted to kill Americans and engage in violent jihad on behalf of the terrorist group, and said he believed such an attack was justified because the Quran "says to kill your enemies wherever they are," according to a criminal complaint.

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Ready to run



In this March 23, 2015 file photo, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks in Washington.

Associated Press

Clinton to announce 2016 bid on Sunday

KEN THOMAS
JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton will end months of speculation and launch her highly anticipated 2016 presidential campaign on Sunday, attempting a second bid at becoming America's first woman president. Clinton, the former first lady and secretary of state who lost the 2008 nomination to Barack Obama, will skip a flashy kickoff rally in favor of conversations with voters about the economic needs of middle class families and the next generation.

Clinton appears unlikely to face a formidable primary opponent, though a handful of lower-profile Democrats have said they are considering campaigns. Some liberals have tried to lure Sen. Elizabeth Warren into the race, but she has rejected the idea. Should she win the nomination, Clinton would face the winner of a Republican primary field that could feature as many as two dozen candidates. They could include former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, the brother and son of former presidents, and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who is expected to

announce his campaign in Miami on Monday. The first official word of Clinton's candidacy will come in a video posted on social media and to supporters online, according to two people familiar with her plans. She will then turn to crucial early-voting primary states such as Iowa and New Hampshire, looking to connect directly with voters in small, intimate settings. The people familiar with her plans spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss them publicly. Clinton has offered glimpses in recent speeches of

why she will again seek the White House. Another preview came Friday in the epilogue to the paperback version of her 2014 book, "Hard Choices." "Becoming a grandmother has made me think deeply about the responsibility we all share as stewards of the world we inherit and will one day pass on," Clinton writes in the new chapter, according to a preview published by The Huffington Post. "Rather than make me want to slow down, it has spurred me to speed up."

Continued Next Page

Clinton

Continued from front

The Sunday announcement will mark Clinton's formal return to politics following a two-year leave from government.

Kicking off her campaign with straight-up retail politics, where she can talk to voters one-on-one, would be a departure from how Clinton jumped into her first presidential campaign. In 2007, Clinton also launched with a video, but followed it with a large, boisterous rally in Des Moines: "I'm running for president, and I'm in it to win it."

This time, the emphasis will be making a personal connection, rather than touting herself.

Clinton allies say they hope the intimate settings will let people see a more nurturing, empathetic side, along with her sense of humor.

By campaigning heavily in Iowa and New Hampshire, which influence the rest of the state-by-state battle for party nominations, Clinton hopes to avoid making the same stumbles she did in 2008, when she entered the race as a U.S. senator and a heavy favorite only to be upset by Obama.

Republicans have been preparing for a second Clinton campaign since she left Obama's ad-



In this March 23, 2015 file photo, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks in Washington.

Associated Press

ministration in early 2013. They intend to campaign against her by equating her potential presidency to that of a "third" Obama term, during which they argue she would continue his most unpopular policies.

"I'm curious what her slo-

gan is going to be. I suspect it won't be 'four more years,'" Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, another possible GOP candidate, said Friday.

In the past few weeks, Clinton has faced withering criticism over her use of a

personal email account and server while she was secretary of state, as well as the Clinton Foundation's acceptance of donations from foreign governments.

Also, Republicans running a select congressional committee reviewing the 2012

attack on a U.S. facility in Benghazi, Libya, which took place during Clinton's tenure at the State Department, are investigating her decision to delete thousands of emails she has deemed personal in nature. □

Kerry calls for release of 5 Chinese activists

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry is calling for the immediate and unconditional release of five Chinese activists detained before International Women's Day in March.

Kerry said in a statement Friday that the women had organized a peaceful campaign to help end sexual harassment and promote equal rights for women.

He says Chinese authorities should support such activists, "not silence them."

To date, China's Foreign Ministry has rejected international calls for the release of the five women, describing it as interference in the nation's judicial sovereignty.



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Continued from front

Military base

Authorities arrested Booker on Friday as he was trying to arm what he thought was a 1,000 pound (455 kilogram) bomb outside the Army post. The criminal complaint filed in federal court in Topeka charges him with three crimes, including attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction.

The top federal prosecutor for Kansas also charged another Topeka man, Alexander E. Blair, 28, with failing to report Booker's plans to authorities.

The complaint alleges that Blair and Booker shared some "extremist views" and that Blair loaned Booker money to rent space to build and store a bomb.

Imam Omar Hazim of the Islamic Center of Topeka told The Associated Press that two FBI agents brought Booker to him early in 2014 for counseling, hoping to turn the young man away from radical beliefs. Hazim

said the agents told him that Booker suffered from bipolar disorder, characterized by unusual mood swings that can affect functioning.

Hazim said he expressed concerns to the FBI about allowing him to move freely in the community at their first encounter.

Hazim said he later heard that two others were involved in a bombing plot with Booker.

He said the FBI told him they were undercover FBI agents and that the sting was arranged to get Booker, "off the streets."

"I think the two FBI agents set him up, because they felt at that point someone else might have done the same thing and put a real bomb in his hands," Hazim said.

He said he has come to the conclusion that the sting was the right thing to do. He said Booker admitted to him on Tuesday that he had

stopped taking his medication because he didn't like the way it made him feel and it was expensive.

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Kansas declined to comment on Hazim's comments.

The soft-spoken Booker made his first court appearance Friday in U.S. District Court in Topeka, answering basic questions and correcting the spelling of his alias, Muhammad Abdul-lah Hassan.

Booker was ordered to remain jailed. A grand jury is expected to consider the case next week.

Booker's public defender, Kirk Redmond, declined comment following the hearing.

Booker was recruited to join the Army in February 2014, but came to the attention of federal investigators after posting a Facebook message on March 19, 2014, that read: "Getting ready to be killed in jihad



U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom holds news conference on Friday, April 10, 2015 at the Federal Courthouse in Kansas City, Kan.
Associated Press

is a HUGE adrenaline rush! I am so nervous. NOT because I'm scared to die but I am eager to meet my lord." His military enlistment was terminated days later, according to the Army. His father, John T. Booker Sr., told the AP that his son moved out about two years ago after graduating

from high school. The elder Booker, an Army veteran who served in Desert Storm, said he and his son had talked only about four times in the past year. He said he is Methodist and his wife is Catholic, and that he knew nothing about the religious beliefs of his son. □



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Stage being set for historic Obama-Castro meeting Saturday

JIM KUHNHENN
JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro moved toward a groundbreaking meeting on the sidelines of the Summit of the Americas Friday in what would be a remarkable display of reconciliation between two nations with the leadership of the Western Hemisphere gathered around them.

The powerful symbolism of a face-to-face exchange Saturday between the leaders could signal progress even though both sides are still working through nettlesome issues that would lead to the opening of embassies in Washington and Havana, the first stage in a new diplomatic relationship.

Obama cast the move to end 50 years of hostile relations as a triumph for the Cuban people.

"As the United States begins a new chapter in our relationship with Cuba, we hope it will create an environment that improves the lives of the Cuban people," he told a meeting of civil society groups, including Cuban dissidents. "Not because it is imposed by us, the United States, but through the talent and ingenuity and aspirations, and the conversations among Cubans from all walks of life so they can decide what the best course is for their prosperity."

The White House was coy over the status of the State Department's recommendation to remove Cuba from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terror. Removal is a top issue with Castro because it would not only eliminate Cuba's status as a pariah, but also ease Cuba's ability to conduct simple financial transactions.

Nevertheless, the pace of activity over the terror list suggested that even if Obama did not make an announcement Saturday, one would come soon.

The U.S.-Cuban outreach entered a new, accelerated stage in recent days, with Obama speaking with Castro by phone Wednesday and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry holding a lengthy meeting with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez late Thursday.

The Cuban foreign ministry issued a brief account of the Kerry-Rodriguez meeting, saying they met for

times of the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989. To shouts of "Maduro, stick it to the Yankee," he vowed to personally ask Obama to apologize to Panama and compensate victims of what he called a "massacre" that left more than 500 people dead during the invasion. "Never again a U.S. invasion in Latin America," Maduro said.

President Evo Morales of Bolivia



President Barack Obama speaks during the CEO Summit of the Americas panel discussion in Panama City, Panama, Friday, April 10, 2015. Obama is in Panama to attend the VII Summit of the Americas.

Associated Press

nearly three hours in a "respectful and constructive atmosphere."

It was the highest-level, face-to-face contact between officials from the two countries since the Dec. 17 announcement that Washington and Havana would move to restore diplomatic relations that were severed in 1961.

Even as Washington talked up the historic shift toward Cuba, leftist leaders in Latin America took shots at the U.S. in solidarity with Venezuela.

Barely off the plane, President Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela laid a wreath at a monument to vic-

said he backs Maduro's drive to end U.S. intervention in the region. For Obama and Castro, their conversation Wednesday was the first since they spoke Dec. 17.

The flurry of diplomacy around the summit was recognition of the historic nature of the new relationship intended to end five decades of American presidents either isolating or working to overthrow Fidel Castro's government. Officials hoped to make the most of the exchange between the two men. Still, Obama made a point of meeting with about 15 Latin American activists, including two Cu-

bans who have challenged Castro's government. The White House identified the Cubans as Laritza Diversent, a human rights lawyer and independent journalist, and Manuel Cuesta Morua, a leader of a centrist opposition group. A large contingent of pro-Castro Cubans who were supposed to participate in a larger civil society forum left shortly before Obama spoke to protest the inclusion of Cuban dissidents.

Obama was already getting praise from allies in the Americas.

"President Obama is going to leave a legacy the way he is supporting Hispanics in the United States, and also his new policy for Cuba for us is very important," Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela said as he met with Obama.

Removing Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terror would be a major milestone and likely generate controversy in the U.S., given the political repercussions of any Cuba opening. The sensitivities over Cuba are especially acute in Florida, a key presidential battleground, and they are likely to ignite vigorous debate among the presidential candidates.

Congress would have 45 days from the day Obama removes Cuba from the list to issue a resolution of disapproval, but the margin of passage would have to be veto proof.

Rep. Jeff Duncan, the chairman of a House panel on the Western Hemisphere, criticized taking Cuba off the list, saying a bipartisan coalition in Congress would demand that it first meet democratic, humanitarian and national security conditions. Sen. Lindsey Graham, who is among Republicans considering a presidential bid, decried the expected Obama-Castro meeting and called the Cuban leader an "entrenched dictator." □



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Gap remains in video record of fatal U.S. police shooting

JEFFREY COLLINS
MICHAEL BIESECKER
Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AP) — Questions persist about the fatal shooting of a black South Carolina motorist after the release of video taken from the car of the white police officer charged in the death. The dashboard camera footage released by state police on Thursday showed North Charleston Of-

prompting protests and intense debate about police treatment of minorities.

Saturday's traffic stop opens routinely as Scott is stopped in a used Mercedes-Benz he had bought days earlier, footage from the patrol car showed. The officer is seen walking toward the driver's window, requesting Scott's license and registration. Slager then returns to his cruiser. On the dash cam video, Slager never touches

getting to his feet and running away, then Slager firing eight shots at the man's back.

"It is possible for something to happen in that gap to significantly raise the officer's perception of risk," Seth Stoughton, a former police officer and criminal law professor at the University of South Carolina.

Scott was more than \$17,500 behind in child support - more than \$18,000 with court fees - and had

On Friday, Slager's mother, Karen Sharpe, told ABC's "Good Morning America" that she couldn't believe her son — who loved being an officer and had a baby on the way — would have been involved in the incident. She said she's taking one day at a time and hasn't watched the cellphone video that helped bring about Slager's arrest. "I just have to let it be and hope God takes care of everybody involved — not only my family but the Scott family because I know they're grieving just like I'm grieving, so I want them to know that," she said.

There is almost nothing in Slager's police personnel file to suggest that his superiors considered him a rogue officer capable of murdering a man during a traffic stop. In the community he served, however, people say this reflects what's wrong with policing today: Officers nearly always get the last word when citizens complain.

The mostly black neighborhood where the shooting took place is far from unique, said Melvin Tucker, a former FBI agent and police chief in four southern cities who often testifies in police misconduct cases.

Nationwide, training that pushes pre-emptive action, military experience that creates a warzone mindset, and legal system favoring police in misconduct cases all lead to scenarios where officers see the people they serve as enemies, he said.

Slager, 33, could face 30 years to life if convicted on the murder charge.

His file includes a single excessive use-of-force complaint, from 2013: A man said Slager used his stun gun against him without reason. Slager was exonerated and the case closed, even though witnesses told The Associated Press that investigators never followed up with them. Police say they are now looking at that case again amid questions by the man Tased and eyewitnesses who said authorities never questioned them about it. □



North Charleston police officers sit in a patrol car near the scene where Walter Scott was killed by a police officer Saturday after a traffic stop in North Charleston, S.C., Thursday, April 9, 2015.

Associated Press

ficer Michael Thomas Slager pulling over Walter Scott for a broken brake light last weekend.

The video captures the moments leading up to a shooting that has sparked outrage as the latest example of a white police officer killing an unarmed black man. The shooting itself was captured by an eyewitness on his iPhone and provided the impetus for the officer to be charged with murder and fired. That's a striking difference from the recent cases in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City, where white officers were not charged in the deaths of African-Americans,

his gun during the stop. He also makes no unreasonable demands or threats.

The video also shows Scott beginning to get out of the car, his right hand raised above his head. He then quickly gets back into the car and closes the door. After Slager goes back to his patrol car, minutes later, Scott jumps from his car and runs. Slager chases him. What's missing is what happens from when the two men run out of the frame of dashboard video to the time picked up in a bystander's cellphone video. The cellphone footage starts with Scott

been in jail three times over the issue. He last paid child support in 2012, court records show, and a bench warrant for his arrest was issued in early 2013. His family has said that he might have run because he was behind on payments again and didn't want to go back to jail..

Police and Slager's first lawyer initially said the officer fired in self-defense during a scuffle over his department-issued Taser. Within days of Saturday's encounter, the eyewitness video surfaced and immediately changed perceptions of what had happened.

Battle waged over U.S. 'conversion therapy' bans

DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There have been several setbacks this year for a state-by-state campaign to ban so-called conversion therapy for gay, lesbian and transgender youth. But the White House is now officially an ally, and activists are hopeful of long-term success as they make a case that such treatments can have devastating consequences.

Groups advocating the bans were elated on Wednesday when President Barack Obama conveyed his support for measures banning psychiatric therapy treatments aimed at changing minors' sexual orientation. Just hours earlier, a Colorado Senate committee defeated a proposed ban bill there.

"I am hesitant to use the heavy hand of government to take away the dignity of choice in cases where individuals want this therapy," said state Sen. Owen Hill, one of three Republicans who outvoted two Democrats on the committee to block the bill after it had advanced out of the Democratic-con-

trolled House.

According to the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which is a leader of the multistate campaign, Colorado is one of 18 states where bans were being considered this year. Bans were enacted in previous years in California, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., but at this stage it's possible only a handful of other states — perhaps Oregon and Illinois — might join them this year.

With a legislative deadline approaching in Nevada, a bill there appears in jeopardy. In Iowa, a similar measure already has missed a key deadline and in any case was viewed as a long shot in the Republican-controlled House. In New York, the GOP-run Senate has yet to signal enthusiasm for a ban that advanced through the House last year.

However, Samantha Ames, coordinator of the National Center for Lesbian Rights' Born Perfect campaign, said she and her colleagues are heartened by increasing public awareness of the issue, even in states where the proposed measures fail.



In this Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012 file photo, Christine Sun, right, deputy legal director for the Southern Poverty Law Center, talks with Michael Ferguson, second right, and his partner, Seth Anderson, before a news conference, in New York.

"Most people didn't know what conversion therapy was," Ames said. "We are going to put this industry out of business, and the way we do that is through public education and empowerment of the survivors who've been most deeply affected."

Among those who testi-

fied in support of the proposed Colorado ban was Sarah Musick of Colorado Springs.

When she told her parents she was gay, Musick said, they forced her to enter a "corrective therapy" program that caused her distress and eventually led to a suicide attempt.

Among those testifying against the Colorado ban was Jeff Johnston, an issues analyst at the Colorado Springs-based conservative Christian ministry Focus on the Family. Johnston says he was attracted to other males as a youth, then underwent religiously themed therapy starting in his mid-20s that paved the way to a successful heterosexual marriage.

"If you ban this, you're saying to people of faith who might have unwanted sexual feelings, 'Sorry, we can't help you,'" Johnston said. "You're denying their right to self-determination." Many major mental health and family-issues groups have long opposed conversion therapy, including the American Psychological Association.

"So-called reparative therapies are aimed at 'fixing' something that is not a mental illness and therefore does not require ther-

apy," said the APA's president, Barry Anton. "There is insufficient scientific evidence that they work, and they have the potential to harm the client."

In a 2009 report, an APA task force said mental health professionals should avoid telling clients that they can change their sexual orientation. Instead, the APA suggested that such clients "seek psychotherapy, social support and educational services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increase family and school support and reduce rejection of sexual minority youth."

One advantage of the wave of proposed bills, Pickup said, is that legislative hearings and news coverage provide him and his allies with more opportunities to make their case. There are no firm figures that convey the extent of conversion therapy in the United States. Pickup said many thousands of clients undergo it each year, while Samantha Ames of the National Center for Lesbian Rights cited research suggesting that one-third of LGBT youths were sent to some sort of program aimed at changing their sexual orientation. □

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2 women killed in tornadoes were neighbors, friends



A home is seen destroyed in Rochelle, Ill., Friday morning, April 10, 2015, after a tornado swept through the area Thursday evening.

MICHAEL TARM
SOPHIA TAREEN
Associated Press
FAIRDALE, Illinois (AP) — The two women killed by a devastating tornado system that barreled through the central state of Illinois shared a friendship, favors and, ultimately, a neighborhood that turned out to be ground zero for a twister that leveled much of their rural hamlet.

Jacklyn Klosa, 69, was found Friday morning in the rubble of her Fairdale home, not far from where Geraldine Schultz, 67, died Thursday night when the tornado zeroed in on their neighborhood as it cut through the region west of Chicago, injuring more than a dozen and ripping buildings from their foundations.

The county coroner said Klosa, who had no basement, was found hiding in her shower, clutching her purse.

Klosa "was just one of the most friendly people in the world, a wonderful mother and a wonderful friend," said Les Bellah, mayor of neighboring Kirkland, recalling the "big ol' hug" he got from her recently but also how she'd "let you know" if she was upset with you. "You never had to wonder what she was thinking."

At least two tornadoes touched down in the six-county vicinity. Most of the injuries weren't considered serious.

"We are very blessed that more people were not hurt. This was a devastating storm," Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner said in the town of Flagg after touring the damage.

National Weather Service meteorologist Jamie Enderlen said at least one tornado touched down near Fairdale and was initially rated an EF4, meaning it was capable of producing winds up to

200 mph (320 kph). Damage survey teams were working Friday to officially determine how long tornadoes stayed on the ground, their strength and extent of the damage.

Meteorologist Matt Friedlein said the storms and cold front headed northeast, dumping snow in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and sweeping across the Ohio Valley overnight.

In Illinois, Fairdale was the hardest hit, though the storm also collapsed buildings in surrounding towns, including a restaurant in Roselle from which a dozen people had to be dug out of a storm cellar.

Fairdale has no village government, no school,

no cable TV and no major businesses. Some residents kept horses in town; one family found one of its horses dead amid the debris Friday afternoon.

All Fairdale homes were evacuated as a precaution and the electricity was out across the area. Trees, power lines and debris lay strewn on the ground, along with a sign welcoming people to town. Roofs from buildings were missing. Metal siding from barns was wrapped around trees.

Crews spent Thursday night and Friday going through the wreckage looking for missing residents, but authorities expressed confidence by the afternoon that they'd accounted for everyone. □

Associated Press

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NYC woman pleads not guilty in fake-marriages case

JIM FITZGERALD
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York woman is accused of having fake marriages with 10 men as part of an immigration scam, including one who was deported in 2006 after a Joint Terrorism Task Force investigation into threatening statements against the U.S.

Liana Barrientos pleaded not guilty Friday to two counts of filing a false instrument — a marriage application and license — in the Bronx. She and her lawyer refused to comment afterward.

Assistant District Attorney Jessica Lupo said during one period, Barrientos was supposedly married to eight men at the same time in the New York City area. The case was

brought to the district attorney's attention by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security's Investigation Division. Prosecutors say the fake grooms were natives of Egypt, Turkey, Georgia, Pakistan, Mali, the Czech Republic and Bangladesh. Seven of the men filed for permanent status based on marriages to her. "When some of them were denied they filed for divorce" and refiled for legal status using other marriages, Assistant District Attorney Jessica Lupo said. In one case, Barrientos acknowledged "receiving money for her actions," the prosecutor said. But she also told Homeland Security that she had never seen nine of the men before, Lupo said.



Liana Barrientos appears in Judge Steven Barrett's courtroom at the Bronx Supreme Court during an arraignment, Friday, April 10, 2015, in New York. Associated Press

Barrientos, who could face four years in prison if convicted, was released next court date, on May 18. □

Police put on leave in violent California arrest

TAMI ABDOLLAH
AMY TAXIN

Associated Press
SAN BERNARDINO, Califor-

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nia (AP) — A California sheriff placed 10 deputies on paid administrative leave Friday after news video recorded the violent arrest of a man fleeing authorities on horse.

The beating came as recent violent episodes by officers dealing with suspects have provoked outrage after being captured on video, including the shooting death of an unarmed man as he ran from a police officer last weekend in South Carolina.

In California, San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon said the video "disturbed and troubled him" and appeared to show an excessive use of force.

McMahon announced the action after 30-year-old Francis Pusok was arrested by deputies in a violent encounter filmed by a KNBC-TV helicopter (<http://bit.ly/1H8UC3D>). Pusok fled by car and then on a stolen horse, traveling several miles while deputies chased him on foot, after deputies tried to serve a search warrant in an identity-theft in-



This undated booking photo provided by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department shows Francis Jared Pusok, of Apple Valley, Calif. Associated Press

vestigation Thursday. The video shows the man dressed in bright red clothing falling from the horse as a deputy runs up and uses a stun gun on him. McMahon said the stun gun was believed to be ineffective because of the man's loose clothing.

The man falls face down with his arms and legs outstretched and put his hands behind his back. The video shows two deputies appearing to come up and

kick him in the head and crotch. Other deputies arrive moments later.

Two deputies received injuries including abrasions, a twisted knee and a back injury from being struck by the horse. Pusok had abrasions and bruising. He was booked on suspicion of felony evading, theft of a horse, possession of stolen property and reckless driving. McMahon said there is an internal and criminal investigation, which looks at Pusok's and the deputies' actions. He said the department won't release the names of deputies, including a sergeant and a detective, until they're sure that multiple threats made aren't valid. The deputies were wearing audio recorders, but McMahon said he had not listened to them and the recordings will be part of the investigation.

Attorneys for Pusok told KNBC-TV Friday as they left the jail that their client has a badly swollen eye, marks from the beating over his face and body, and is in pain. □

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Spain: 7 suspected jihadists jailed, Barcelona targeted

ALAN CLENDENNING

MADRID (AP) — An investigative judge on Friday jailed seven suspected jihadists in a case involving alleged discussions about targeting a Jewish bookstore in Barcelona.

Authorities seized a grenade, knives, shotguns, ammunition and chemicals that could be used for bomb-making during searches that followed 11 arrests Wednesday in the northeastern Catalonia region, Judge Santiago Pedraz said in a report. It was released after the seven appeared before him in closed-door court sessions. The suspects, mostly from the city of Terrassa about a 30-minute drive from

Barcelona, had formed a group they called "Islamic Brotherhood for Jihad Predication" that was linked ideologically to the Islamic State group, the report said.

Three of those arrested were released by Pedraz and a 17-year-old suspect identified as a Paraguayan living in Spain for eight years was sent to a juvenile detention center. Six of the seven jailed adults were men with Spanish citizenship; the seventh was a Moroccan woman.

One of those ordered jailed allegedly had discussions with others about being ready to attack the bookstore with help from a neo-Nazi acquaintance,

the report said.

Images of a central Barcelona hotel, a police station and a shopping center were found on the cellphone of the man who talked about the bookstore.

Catalonia regional police had been monitoring members of the alleged group for more than a year. Paraguayan Interior Minister Francisco de Vargas said Friday that authorities were concerned about learning that a youth with Paraguayan roots had been implicated.

There were no indications that he came into contact with any extremist groups in Paraguay when he was younger, Vargas said. But



Mossos d'Esquadra regional police officers detain a man during a raid in one of the region's biggest operations against jihad activity, in Sabadell, near Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, April 8, 2015.

Associated Press

Paraguayan authorities decided as a precaution to step up patrols in the so-called Triple Border part of Paraguay that borders Argentina and Brazil. The Triple Border region

is known as a smugglers haven with a large Arab community. U.S. officials have said it is a center for terrorism financing, a claim denied by the three South American nations. □

7 hurt in car bomb on tourist island in southern Thailand

BANGKOK (AP) — A car bomb exploded at a shopping mall on a Thai island popular with foreign tourists for its pristine beaches, injuring seven people, officials said on Saturday.

The improvised bomb was hidden in a pickup truck and went off late Friday night on the basement level of the shopping Central Festival mall on Samui Island in Surat Thani province, after a fashion show, the island's disaster prevention and mitigation chief Poonsak Sophonpathumrak told The Associated Press. He said authorities believed the vehicle was stolen from one of the three southernmost Thai provinces plagued by violence. More than

5,000 people have been killed since an Islamic insurgency began in the sub-region in 2004. Muslims in the area, which was an independent Islamic sultanate until it was annexed by Thailand in the early 20th century, have long complained of discrimination, and the insurgents are thought to be fighting for autonomy. The militants, however, have made no public pronouncements about their aims. Poonsak said the bomb had destroyed most of the pickup truck and damaged a few other vehicles that were parked nearby at the mall, which was located a few hundred meters (feet) from the popular Chaweng beach. □

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Boko Haram, ousted from towns and camps, still killing

**MICHELLE FAUL
LEKAN OYEKANMI**

Associated Press

GWOZA, Nigeria (AP) —

As the turbaned militant lifted his head from his Quran and readied to dash to his anti-aircraft gun, the helicopter pilot stuck the nose of his aircraft into the air and veered away. Then he called in the coordinates for an airstrike.

It was a chilling reminder that Boko Haram extremists still are in northeast Nigeria with all sorts of weapons even as Nigeria's military officials boast that they have ousted them from all major towns and forest camps.

Each day brings new reports of atrocities, with mass graves being dis-



In this photo taken Wednesday, April 8, 2015, a Woman cries as she learns that her relatives were killed by Boko Haram in Gwoza, Nigeria, a town newly liberated from Boko Haram.

Associated Press

covered in towns seized back from the militants who had tried to set up an "Islamic caliphate" across a great swath of northeast Nigeria.

Just this week, survivors described how the insur-

gents arrived in a village, saying they had come to preach Islam. When villagers gathered in front of the mosque, the extremists opened fire. When some ran into the mosque, the militants set

it ablaze, burning alive some of their victims.

"As I speak to you, all the towns they previously occupied ... have been cleared, so they really have no base," said defense ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Chris Olukolade. "All we are doing at the moment is mopping up and conducting cordon and search for weapons and as many of them as may be straggling."

Boko Haram has been left "marauding from place to place," he told The Associated Press. The AP and journalists from other media organizations were taken on Wednesday by military helicopter to Gwoza, a "newly liberated" city of burned-out buildings.

On the outskirts, an Arabic script sign left by the militants was smashed to the ground. Decomposing bodies lay scattered, including those of a woman and child. Others had lain there long enough to turn to skeletons.

A young man showed reporters the stump from his amputated right hand, chopped off with a machete under the harsh form of Islamic law imposed by the insurgents. They accused him of stealing fuel, a charge he denies.

"I told them I am a mechanic, and they said since you are a mechanic you will work for us," said Hassan Usman, speaking in the local Hausa language. "When I told them I could not work for them, they said they would kill me."

Just 35 kilometers (22 miles) away, Cameroonian troops were battling the insurgents, according to reports reaching The

Associated Press in Maiduguri, the biggest city in northeastern Nigeria.

With soldiers from neighboring Chad, Cameroon and Niger, Boko Haram has been ousted in recent weeks from towns held for months. But Chadian President Idriss Deby has complained that Nigeria's military is not doing its part.

"Two months after the beginning of this war, we have not had a single direct contact on the ground with units of the Nigerian army. This is why, more than once, Chadian forces have been obliged to retake towns and advance again," Deby said in an interview published March 26 in the French magazine Le Point.

Olukolade did not respond directly to questions about border towns that have been seized by Chadian troops who then withdraw, leaving Boko Haram to return.

Boko Haram's nearly 6-year-old Islamic uprising in northeast Nigeria that has killed thousands — a reported 10,000 just last year — and forced more than 1.5 million from their homes.

Nigerians' displeasure over the government's conduct in the war was a factor in their booting President Goodluck Jonathan out of office in March 28 elections — the first time that an opposition politician has ousted an incumbent.

President-elect Muhammadu Buhari, who takes office on May 29, is a former military dictator whom many Nigerian hope will use his military background to definitively stamp out Boko Haram. □



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Maduro gives U.S. eye-poke in visit to 1989 invasion monument

JOSHUA GOODMAN
PETER ORSI

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Nicolas Maduro had barely gotten off his plane at the Summit of the Americas on Friday before he gave a symbolic poke in the eye to Washington, paying a visit to a monument honoring victims of the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama.

A crowd of several hundred, many of them government supporters flown in from Venezuela, greeted the socialist leader at the memorial in the poor downtown neighborhood of El Chorrillo, which saw the heaviest fighting during the invasion. "Maduro, stick it to the Yankee!" they chanted.

Maduro said he would personally deliver to President Barack Obama the victims' petition demanding the U.S. apologize for the military incursion that removed dictator Gen. Manuel Noriega and compensate families who lost loved ones.

"Never again a U.S. invasion in Latin America," Maduro said.

The Venezuelan leader has hardened his rhetoric against Washington in the run-up to the summit after the White House slapped financial sanctions on seven senior officials it accuses of human rights abuses tied to last year's anti-government protests.

At the rally, organizers canvassed locals to add their name to a petition that Maduro has promised to deliver to Obama with 10 million signatures calling on the U.S. president to reverse course.

Shirtless children waiting around for hours in the scorching midday heat posed for photos holding signs stamped with what has become a ubiquitous rallying cry in Caracas: "Obama Repeal the Executive Order."

Despite Maduro's aggressive rhetoric all eyes are on Obama and Cuba's Raul Castro at the summit, where the two leaders are expected to meet for the first time since their historic December announcement that they would move to restore diplomatic relations severed since 1961.

Other Latin leaders were also going about their business: meeting

on the sidelines among themselves and with educators, corporate CEOs and civil society groups.

Enrique Pena Nieto of Mexico got together with Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia and Ollanta Humala of Peru, bringing together the presidents of the South American nations that are the two biggest sources of coca leaf, the raw ingredient in cocaine, and the lead-

ment to launch a border customs union that aims to ease the flow of people and goods between the two countries, something they have long aspired to create.

"We are taking important steps in the processes of integration and attracting investment with this customs union," Perez Molina said.

Bolivian President Evo Morales made time for a friendly soccer

The pro-Castro delegation later walked out of the forum before Obama's scheduled closing speech, complaining that they had been "forced" to share the stage with opposition figures they consider hostile to their country..

"With respect to the host president and the other leaders, including President Obama, the delegation of the authentic Cuban civil soci-



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, holds a box with signatures from supporters who signed a petition asking the U.S. to end sanctions against Venezuela during a ceremony at the monument for the 500-plus victims of the 1989 US invasion of Panama in the neighborhood of Chorrillo in Panama City, Friday, April 10, 2015.

Associated Press

er of the United States' immediate southern neighbor, a major transit corridor for the drug.

The presidents of Central America's "northern triangle" — Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras — asked the United Nations for support for a security and development plan that also aims to reduce emigration from the violence-plagued countries toward the United States. The three presidents delivered to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon a document outlining their strategy and met with Obama, who has requested \$1 billion in aid for Central America in his budget proposal to Congress.

Guatemalan President Otto Perez Molina and Honduran President Juan Orlando signed an agree-

ment Friday with delegates to the alternative Peoples' Summit. Known for regularly kicking the ball around with different groups as part of his presidential outreach, Morales donned a white-and-green No. 10 jersey with "Evo" on the back.

A separate civil society forum was the scene of a third day of confrontations between opponents and supporters of the Cuban government, prompting police to get between the two camps and close off access to the venue for nearly 40 minutes.

Castro supporters shouted "Mercenaries!" as they faced off with government opponents who brandished signs such as "Democracy is respect."

ety has decided not to take part in the encounter," they said in a declaration read by member Rosa Maria Perez.

At the Panama invasion monument, Trinidad Ayola, who lost her husband in the fighting, held back tears as she talked about Maduro's visit. She said it was the first time any Panamanian leader or foreign head of state had come calling in the two decades since the monument was built, and she called on Obama to apologize for the 1989 invasion.

"Maduro is interested in the suffering of the people," she said, contrasting the Venezuelan's visit with Obama's to the American-built canal. "All Obama cares about is the interests of the multinationals." □

Pakistan votes to stay out of Yemen conflict

**AHMED AL-HAJ
MUNIR AHMED
Associated Press**

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Pakistan's parliament voted unanimously Friday to stay out of the Saudi-led air campaign targeting Shiite rebels in Yemen, offering instead to mediate a solution, in a blow to Saudi Arabia's attempts to build a Sunni front in an increasingly sectarian conflict. Pakistan's decision is unlikely to greatly affect the Saudi-led coalition's military capabilities. But it was an embarrassment to the kingdom from a traditionally close ally, now reluctant to get pulled into a conflict that is threatening to escalate into a new proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Saudi Arabia had been seeking to expand the coalition, made up of fellow Gulf nations as well as Egypt and Sudan, which has waged a nearly 3-week campaign of airstrikes against the rebels, known as Houthis, and is reportedly considering a ground incursion. At the same time, Shiite powerhouse Iran, which backs the Houthis, also lobbied Pakistan and other Sunni nations to back a cease-fire and a negotiated end to the conflict.

A senior official in the United Arab Emirates — a member of the coalition — lashed out angrily at Pakistan, accusing it of choosing Iran over the Gulf nations at a time when they face an "existential confrontation" in the Yemen conflict.

Anwar Gargash, the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, said on his Twitter account that Pakistan should look out for its strategic relations with Gulf nations, pointing to the Gulf's economic and investment help to the South Asian nation.

"Contradictory and ambiguous positions in this existential matter will cost (Pakistan) dearly," he wrote.

Airstrikes along with escalated fighting on the ground between the



Hafiz Saeed, third from right, chief of Pakistani religious group Jamat ud Dawa joins others to supports the Saudi Arabian government, during a rally in Islamabad, Pakistan, Thursday, April 9, 2015.



Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, left, talks with Maulana Fazalur Rehman, chief of religious party Jamat Ulema-e-Islam outside the Parliament after attending a joint session to discuss the crisis in Yemen, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Friday, April 10, 2015.

Houthis and supporters of Yemen's beleaguered president threaten to push Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, into collapse. On Friday, the U.N. and International Committee of the Red Cross succeeded in bringing in the first two plane loads of aid, delivering tons of medical and humanitarian supplies to the capital, Sanaa, to relieve hospitals overburdened by casualties.

Saudi Arabia and its allies, including the United States, accuse Iran of arming the Houthis. The Gulf countries view the rebels' power grab as a move by Iran to establish a stronghold on their southern flank. Iran says it backs the rebels politically and with humanitarian

aid but denies sending weapons. The Houthis have full or partial control over 11 of Yemen's 22 provinces, backed by military units loyal to ousted autocrat Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The current president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, was forced to flee the country last month, leaving a shaky collection of forces on the ground to fight the Houthis — including military units still loyal to him, militia-men and Sunni tribesmen. Al-Qaida's Yemen branch is also fighting the Houthis. The coalition is reportedly considering a ground incursion, likely including Saudi and Egyptian forces, once airstrikes have sufficiently weakened the Houthis and Saleh's forces,

a process that could take weeks. On Friday, Egypt's defense minister met with Saudi King Salman in Riyadh to discuss the coalition's operations.

According to Pakistani officials, Saudi Arabia asked Pakistan to send troops to take part in the campaign. Pakistani troops have considerable experience fighting militants in mountainous terrain similar to Yemen's.

After the parliament vote Friday, a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, Ahmed Asiri, still held out hope the Pakistani government would choose to participate. But he said even if it didn't, other coalition forces are as well trained as the Pakistanis. "Not joining on the ground, sea or sea level will not obstruct the coalition operations," he told reporters.

The debate put Pakistan in an awkward position. It has long had military ties to Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was sheltered by Saudi Arabia after the coup that overthrew him in 1999. For weeks, Sunni hard-liners, including a group linked to militants, have organized rallies around Pakistan denouncing the Yemeni rebels and urging Islamabad to join the coalition.

But participation threatened to enflame Pakistan's own sectarian divisions. Pakistan is predominantly

Sunni but has a Shiite minority that is frequently targeted by Sunni extremists. It also has important ties with Iran, with which it shares a long border. Iran's foreign minister, Javad Zarif, was in Islamabad for several days before the vote, meeting Pakistani officials and calling for a cease-fire and negotiations on creating a broad-based government in Yemen.

On Friday, after days of debate, Pakistan's legislature declared the country "should maintain neutrality in the Yemen conflict" so that it can help negotiate a diplomatic solution. Sirajul Haq, the head of Pakistan's powerful Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan party, said Islamabad could "play the role of a mediator." Sharif was present, suggesting his support for the decision.

It called for Pakistan's diplomats to "initiate steps" before the U.N. Security Council "to bring about an immediate cease-fire in Yemen" and warned of regional implications if the conflict becomes an all-out sectarian war.

In a nod to Saudi Arabia, they expressed "unequivocal support" for the kingdom and vowed to "stand shoulder-to-shoulder" with it if its territory or people came under threat.

Yemeni political analyst Sami Ghaleb said Pakistan's position was "disappointing" but won't cause cracks in the coalition. However, he said, it could prompt Saudi Arabia to "reconsider" its approach. "The airstrikes alone are not yielding results so far," he said. Despite airstrikes that targeted weapons depots, installations and command center of the rebels and allied forces, their fighters still managed to make significant territorial gains on Thursday, capturing Ataq, the capital of oil-rich Shabwa province. The area is also a stronghold of al-Qaida.

On Friday, a suicide bomber hit a police department in Shabwa's Bayhan district, controlled by the Houthis, tribal officials said. □



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John & Janice DeClute, from Canada, Revisit Divi after 40 Years

Eagle Beach - The De-Clutes are no ordinary guests. Forty years ago they honeymooned in Aru-

ba, at the Divi Divi Beach Hotel, which heralded four

decades of career, family and business success.

"We wanted to do something special for our 40th wedding anniversary and thought we should go back to where it all started," they say.

When making a room reservation with Divi Mega All Inclusive they mentioned their special history with the place and reservations manager Lisa Cusson then decided to pull all stops, upgrading their accommodations and asking Francis Ridderstap to meet, greet and host the couple throughout their stay, in grand VIP style.

Needless to say, the De-Clutes were surprised and very pleased with the reception, also grateful for the in-room amenities, and have been busy taking in the sights and experiencing the island to the fullest. "Lots has changed," says Janice, "but the spirit and the people and the mood at the resort remained the



same; they are all blessed with ever-present friendliness and genuine hospitality."

Some of the DeClutes fondest memories from four decades ago include walking to Oranjestad at night for dinner in order to save the taxi fare, and attending a time-share sales presentation at the not-yet-built Aruba Beach Club, where they enjoyed a delicious pork chop din-

ner, in exchange for their time. No, they did not buy then, \$1,700 seemed a lot of money for a not-yet-built property, and it's a decision they sometimes regret!

Pleased to have visited Aruba once again, the De-Clutes promise to return, next time with their three grown sons, for a family vacation, even if it takes them another forty years to get here, they say. □



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ly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Ocean Club, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 and 20 or more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Michael and Mrs. Cookie Fox from Commack NY and Mr. Jay and Mrs. Linda Travers from Rochester NY. The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, the Malmok beach snorkeling, shopping the multi lingual experience and Aruba feels like a second home, the employees at the Marriott Ocean Club are like a family to them and the Resort is their home away from home. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing



the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Stephanie Paul representing the Marriott Surf Club. □

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PBC can boost boxing by getting fighters into ring more

RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Undeclared boxer Peter Quillin hasn't fought in nearly a year going into Saturday's prime-time bout at Brooklyn's Barclays Center.

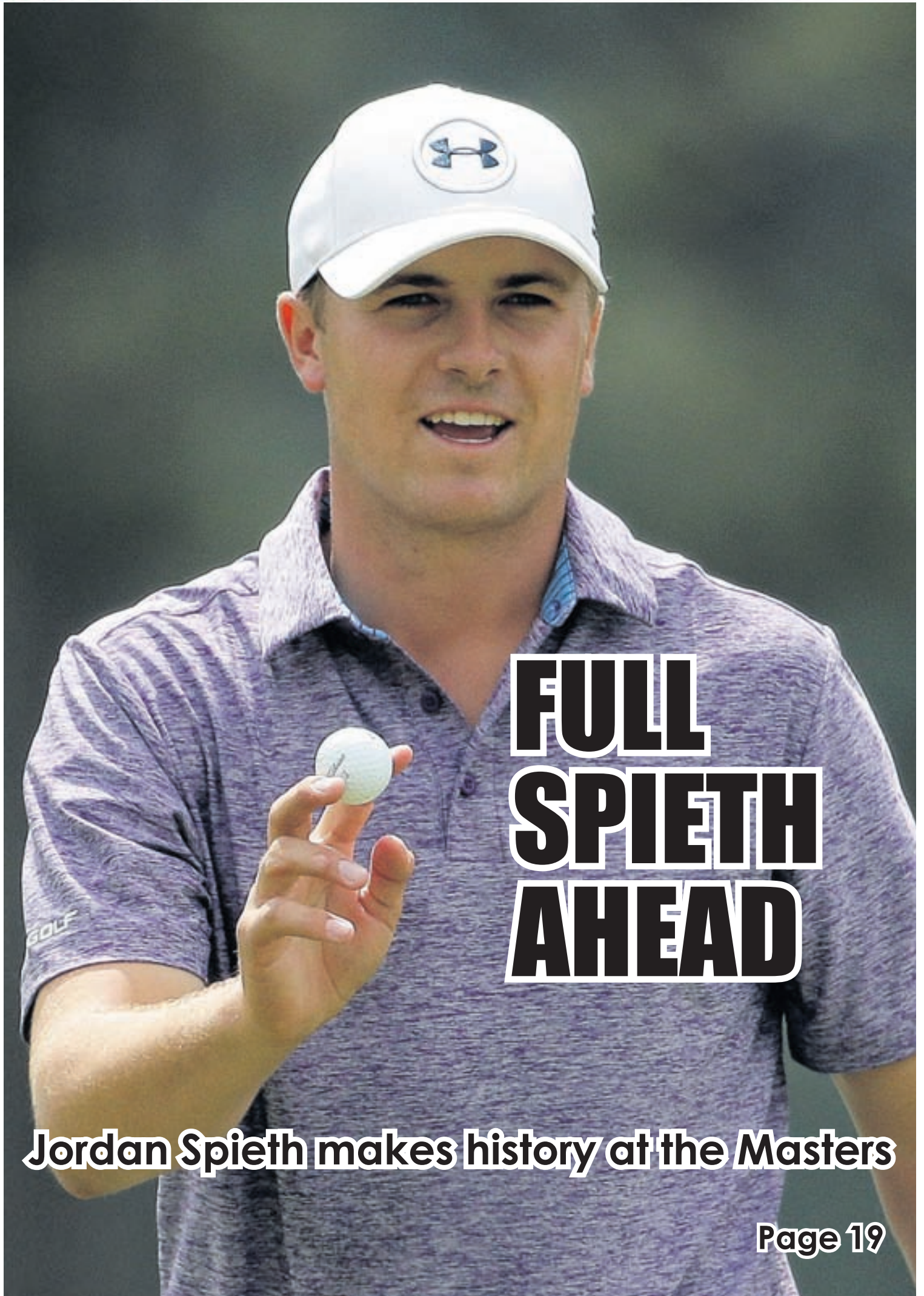
"Could you imagine Jeff Gordon running one NASCAR race a year?" marveled Jon Miller, the president of programming for NBC Sports, which televises this weekend's fight.

The comparison between those two individual sports is apt because success for each competitor is not just about winning but building a fan base. Yet these days in boxing, it's not unusual for a top fighter to step into the ring only once a year.

Floyd Mayweather or Manny Pacquiao can do that and still draw huge pay-per-view audiences. For most everyone else, the gaps between bouts drain interest. The structure of the sport, though, often made more frequent appearances difficult.

"Premier Boxing Champions," the new multi-network series produced by Al Haymon's management company, could offer up the platforms and incentives to change that. "These fighters, they want to be champions, but they want to be more than champions — they want to be acknowledged, recognized; they want to be famous," said Sugar Ray Leonard, the analyst Saturday on NBC. "That just doesn't happen if you fight once a year. You've got to be on that tube as much as you possibly can."

Continued on Page 22



Jordan Spieth makes history at the Masters

Page 19

Jordan Spieth holds up his ball after a birdie on the eighth hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, April 10, 2015, in Augusta, Ga.
Associated Press

Keys, Hrdecka surprise semifinalists at the Family Circle

PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) —

Madison Keys and Lucie Hradecka are finding their games on clay and are both surprise semifinalists at the Family Circle Cup.

Keys, the seventh seed, put on a dominating show to beat fellow American and one-time training partner Lauren Davis, 6-2, 6-2. Hradecka, a qualifier from the Czech Republic, topped her second seeded player in as many days, knocking out No. 4 seed Sara Errani, 6-2, 6-4.

The two will square off Saturday for a spot in their first championship final of the year.

Third-seeded Andrea Petkovic brought some stability — and as defending champion, a familiar name — into the semifinals with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory over qualifier Danka Kovinic. Petkovic will try and reach her second straight final here against either fifth-seeded Angelique Kerber or No. 13 seed Irina-Camelia Begu, who played Friday night.

The power-hitting Keys, 20, came into the event with a losing record on clay. Yet, she's lost only nine games her first three matches here this week with a dazzling display of power and poise.



Madison Keys hits against Andreea Mitu of Romania, during the third round of the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Thursday, April 9, 2015.

Associated Press

"I haven't really had many complaints about how I've been playing," Keys said. "Not trying to get too high on myself of anything like that. Just really trying to move forward and keep playing how I'm playing." That game made her impossible for Davis, 21, to match up with. Keys regularly sent serves in excess of 110 mph toward her opponent and, should the shot have been returned, sent back shots into the corners that appeared even faster. Clay had been Keys least

favorite surface — she was 11-13 on it the previous three years — and even she's a bit stunned at her results. "It's not the easiest game for me, being on clay," she said. "But so far it's been (a) pretty good transition." Hradecka, ranked 110th coming in this week, had no such concerns about clay courts. Of her 10 trips to semifinals as a professional, nine have come on the slower, softer surface. This year, Hradecka's has had the added burden

of qualifying to get into main draws as she did at Charleston. And Hradecka has taken full advantage of it at the Family Circle. She advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating eight-seed Caroline Garcia on Thursday, then followed that up with an easier than expected win over Errani — the Italian who had the most success on clay of any of the quarterfinalists. Hradecka rallied from 2-0 with six straight wins to take the first set. When Errani tied things up at four-all in

the second set, Hradecka responded by breaking the Italian's serve before closing out things a game later.

Hradecka, whose played six matches in seven days, remembers joking with her coach last Saturday after arriving in Charleston that she hoped they wouldn't be getting off a plane, getting into a car, playing a match and then returning to the airport.

"It's a week later and I'm still here," she said, smiling. For a while, it looked like Petkovic's run of success at the Family Circle might end as Kovinic was up a set and 1-0 in the second set. A frustrated Petkovic slammed her racket down several times early, unable to get a handle on Kovinic's fast serves and relentless ground strokes.

But Petkovic moved closer to the baseline and called on her history — she's 11-0 when taking the court at the Family Circle, her lone misstep coming when she withdrew with injury before her third-round match here in 2013 — to dig her out of the hole.

The 27-year-old German won 10 of the last 12 games to move on.

"Sorry for that racket throwing," she told the crowd. "I've got to work on that." □



Fernando Verdasco of Spain returns a shot to Hyeon Chung from South Korea in a match at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship Thursday, April 9, 2015, in Houston.

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Defending champion Fernando Verdasco beat 18-year-old Hyeon Chung 7-6 (2), 6-2 on Thursday in the second round of the U.S. Men's

Clay Court Championship. The sixth-seeded Verdasco, from Spain, survived stiff early resistance from Chung, then broke the South Korean player in the

Defending Clay Court champion Fernando Verdasco advances

fifth game of the second set and coasted to the victory.

Verdasco — at 32, 14 years Chung's senior — couldn't solve his opponent's serve in the first set, but that first break in the second set seemed to demoralize the teenager.

"After the first break of the match maybe he went down mentally," Verdasco said. "But he plays really good to be 18. He moves well and has strong legs. He has a good forehand and a good backhand and serves all the time at 120-something. He's pretty

complete. With a little more experience, he's going to go high in the rankings."

Chung was the first South Korean player to win a main-draw match in the tournament since Hyung-Taik Lee reached the final in 2001.

American Jack Sock upset second-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain 6-4, 6-4.

The 22-year-old Sock is playing his third tournament of the year after having surgery to repair a torn muscle in his pelvis in December.

"Tricky conditions today,"

Sock said. "Windy, sun in and out of the clouds. A lot going on. But I was fortunate. I played well and got through. But I was able to dictate play with my forehand and the clay helps my kick serves. They get up out of his strike zone and he likes everything in the pocket."

In other second-round matches, Russia's Teymuraz Gabashvili beat fourth-seeded John Isner of the United States 6-2, 7-6 (2), and fifth-seeded Santiago Giraldo of Colombia topped Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia 7-6 (2), 6-3. □



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Spieth sets lowest 36-hole score in Masters history

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Jordan Spieth made Friday feel like Sunday at the Masters.

Fans rose to their feet and applauded when Spieth walked onto the 12th tee, and for the next two hours, ovations greeted him on tee boxes and greens. The red number next to his name on the leaderboard — 14-under par — was better than 11 of the last 13 winners.

It was easy to forget the Masters was only half over. When the 21-year-old Texan tapped in for par and a 6-under 66, he broke the 36-hole record at the Masters that had stood for 39 years. Spieth was at 14-under 130, a two-day total matched by only three other players in major championship history.

And his five-shot lead over Charley Hoffman looked even larger considering that Spieth was a runner-up in his Masters debut last year, and he came to Augusta this year as the hottest player in golf.

"I got standing ovations walking to multiple greens," Spieth said. "I mean, that's something you can only dream about. It's Friday, too. I'd like to have the same thing happening on Sunday. Got a lot of work to do before that happens."

Hoffman tried to keep pace with Spieth and ran off three birdies on the back nine until closing with a bogey for a 68. He was five shots behind at 135, a score that would have been leading at 36 holes in the last three Masters. Hoffman didn't care about that.

"It's this year. It's not any other year," he said. "I'm just playing golf and I've

only played 36 holes. And we've got a lot of golf left." Dustin Johnson opened with a double bogey, and then became the first player in Masters history to make three eagles in one round. A bogey from the trees on the last hole gave him a 67, and he was seven shots behind, along with Justin Rose (70) and Paul Casey (68). Phil Mickelson (68) was eight behind.

One score that didn't matter belonged to Ben Crenshaw, a two-time Masters champion playing in his 44th and final competitive round on the course. He missed the cut and in a poignant moment, longtime Augusta caddie Carl Jackson came onto the 18th green for a long, warm embrace.

"I feel like I've won the tournament," Crenshaw said.

Rory McIlroy certainly didn't feel that way.

The career Grand Slam might have to wait for McIlroy, though he stayed alive for a green jacket this week — mathematically, anyway — by making the cut. He went out in 40 and fell below the cut line, only to answer with a 31 on the back nine for another 71. Even so, he was 12 shots behind at 2-under 142.

"I'm proud of myself the way I fought back," McIlroy said. "I'm going to need four more nines like that to have a chance, it looks like. Jordan has played a phenomenal two rounds of golf and doesn't look like he's going to let up."

Tiger Woods was on the same score as McIlroy and had a different outlook.

The four-time Masters champion made only one bogey in his round of 69 — ending a streak of nine straight rounds at Augusta

without breaking 70 — and said a few putts falling is all that has kept him from being closer.

"And I'm still right there," Woods said. "I'm 12 back, but there's not a lot of guys ahead of me. And with 36 holes here to go, anything can happen — '96 proved that. So we have a long way to go."



Jordan Spieth tees off on the seventh hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, April 10, 2015, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

He was referring to Greg Norman losing a six-shot lead on the final day in 1996.

Spieth might find confidence in another reference.

The three other players who had a five-shot lead after 36 holes at Augusta — Herman Keiser in 1946, Jack Nicklaus in 1975 and Raymond Floyd in 1976. All went on to win. Floyd previously had the 36-hole record of 131 at the Masters in that 1976 wire-to-wire victory.

Perhaps even more valuable was Spieth's experience last year. He was tied for the lead with Bubba

Watson and two shots ahead with 11 holes to play when he fell behind and never caught up to Watson. What he learned that day was to be patient. "The hardest thing to do is put aside wanting to win so bad, and just kind of going through the motion and letting my ball striking and putting happen," Spieth

235 yards left for his third shot. Spieth hit a hybrid that caught the contours perfectly and settled 2 feet from the cup for a birdie.

Billy Horschel, playing with Spieth, was just short in two. He went up to the green to check the line and noticed Spieth's ball next to the flag. Walking back, he held his hands about a

yard apart as Spieth was 100 yards away. Horschel shook his head and started laughing. He's seen enough of this for two days. He's come to expect it. Spieth said Horschel told him after the first round that he should get a tape recording of "Nice hole, Jordan," to play on every tee box.

That's about what it has looked like. The question is whether Spieth can keep it going. "It's a long, long way from being finished,"

Ernie Els said after a 72 put him nine shots back. "A lot of work still to be done, so we'll see. But he's very, very impressive." □



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Blues clinch Central title with win over Blackhawks

The Associated Press

— **CALGARY, Alberta (AP)**

— Jiri Hudler scored twice and the Calgary Flames clinched an NHL playoff berth for the first time in six years with a 3-1 win over Los Angeles on Thursday night that eliminated the defending Stanley Cup champion Kings from post-season contention.

Johnny Gaudreau also scored for the Flames and Jonas Hiller stopped 33 shots for the win.

Jonathan Quick had 22 saves in the loss.

The Flames will face the Vancouver Canucks in the first round of the playoffs. Calgary concludes its regular season Saturday at Winnipeg.

Los Angeles won two of the last three Stanley Cups, but struggled this season to keep pace in the Pacific Division.

PANTHERS 4, BRUINS 2

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Roberto Luongo earned his 401st career win and Jaromir Jagr got his 1,800th career point, helping the Panthers beat Boston, damaging the Bruins' playoff hopes.

The Bruins have lost two straight after winning their previous five games. They trail Ottawa by two points and Pittsburgh by one for the eighth and final spot in the Eastern Conference playoffs. The Bruins have the tie-breaker over the Senators and finish Saturday at Tampa Bay.

Detroit and the New York Islanders clinched playoff berths when Boston lost.

Jonathan Huberdeau scored the go-ahead goal, while Jimmy Hayes, Brad Boyes and Aleksander Bar-



St. Louis Blues' Dmitrij Jaskin, of Russia, is congratulated by teammate David Backes, left, after scoring during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Chicago Blackhawks on Thursday, April 9, 2015, in St. Louis.

kov also scored for the Panthers. Luongo stopped 34 shots and is tied with Chris Osgood for 10th in career wins.

Jagr had two assists. The first gave him 1,799 career points and moved him past Ron Francis for sole possession of fourth place. Jagr's second assist gave him 1,800 points and he tied Adam Oates for sixth in assists with 1,079.

BLUES 2, BLACKHAWKS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Paul Stastny scored the winner, Dmitrij Jaskin broke a 16-game scoreless string, and Jake Allen made 21 saves as the Blues won the Central Division.

The Blues clinched home-ice advantage for the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs with their second

win over Chicago in five days and a loss by Nashville. It's their first division title since 2011-2012 and only the third since 1986-87. Jaskin poked a rebound past Alex Pietrangolo at 17:10 of the second period to break a scoreless tie. It was the Blues' first goal in 121 minutes, 58 seconds. Jaskin's last goal came March 1 in a 6-5 overtime loss to Vancouver.

Andrew Shaw scored for Chicago, which has lost three in a row and is guaranteed of opening the playoffs on the road, finishing third in the division.

AVALANCHE 1, JETS 0, SO

DENVER (AP) — The Jets clinched their first playoff spot in eight seasons despite the shootout loss.

Ryan O'Reilly and Matt

Duchene scored in the shootout, and Reto Berra stopped both Winnipeg shots. Berra finished with a season-high 41 saves, then stymied Blake Wheeler and Andrew Ladd in the shootout. The Jets received help from Calgary to squeeze into the playoffs as a wild card when the Flames beat Los Angeles. The last time the franchise made the postseason was in 2006-07, when the team was the Atlanta Thrashers. The Jets are making their first playoff appearance since relocating to Winnipeg for the 2011-12 season.

Ondrej Pavelec had another brilliant night, stopping 21 shots through overtime. But O'Reilly beat him with a backhanded shot and Duchene followed with

another. Colorado did not make the playoffs this season.

WILD 4, PREDATORS 2

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Jason Pominville scored with 2:03 remaining in regulation for Minnesota. Jason Zucker scored twice and Marco Scandella had the other goal for Minnesota, which extended its franchise-record road winning streak to 12 games.

Filip Forsberg and Seth Jones had the goals for Nashville, loser of the last five games. When St. Louis beat Chicago, it meant the Predators can't win the Central Division, which belongs to the Blues.

Goaltender Darcy Kuemper saw his first action in the NHL since Jan. 20. After starting 39 consecutive games, Devan Dubnyk finally got a rest Thursday. Having a playoff spot clinched, the Wild also did not dress their top three goal scorers: Zach Parise, Nino Niederreiter, and Thomas Vanek.

Kuemper made 32 saves.

LIGHTNING 4, DEVILS 3, OT

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tyler Johnson scored his second goal, an overtime power play effort. Johnson scored from along the goal line 1:22 into the extra session. Nikita Nesterov and Steven Stamkos also scored for the playoff-bound Lightning, who are battling Montreal for the Atlantic Division title. Nikita Kucherov and Ondrej Palat had three assists apiece.

New Jersey, 1-6-3 over its last 10 games, got two goals from Steve Bernier, while Patrik Elias had the other Devils goal. □

Baseball Capsules

Indians just miss no-hitter in 5-1 win against Astros

The Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — HOUSTON (AP) — Jed Lowrie broke up a combined no-hit bid by Cleveland with a one-out home run in the ninth inning Thursday, and the Indians beat the Houston Astros 5-1.

Indians starter Trevor Bauer was pulled after throwing 111 pitches through six innings. He struck out a career-high 11 and walked five.

Relievers Kyle Crockett and Scott Atchison each pitched a scoreless inning before Nick Hagadone took over. Hagadone struck out Chris Carter to begin the ninth. Lowrie then sent a 94 mph fastball far over the left-center field wall for Houston's only hit. The Indians have not had a no-hitter since Len Baker threw a perfect game in 1981 against Toronto.

Bauer and the Cleveland relievers teamed to strike out 16 while walking seven. Roberto Perez and Jose Ramirez homered for Cleveland.

Astros starter Asher Wojciechowski (0-1) gave up four runs and eight hits in four-plus innings in his major league debut.

BLUE JAYS 6, YANKEES 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Rodriguez hit his first home run since serving a yearlong drug suspension, but Toronto beat New York for eccentric rookie Daniel Norris' first win in the majors. Edwin Encarnacion homered and the Blue Jays got RBI singles from Jose Reyes and Kevin Pillar in a four-run second inning against CC Sabathia.

The Blue Jays took two of three in the season-opening series, boosting their record at Yankee Stadium to 7-30 since May 24, 2011.

On another raw and rainy night in the Bronx, Rodriguez led off the sixth with a drive into the left-field seats for his 655th career homer. It was A-Rod's first home run since Sept. 20, 2013. The three-time MVP ranks fifth on the career list, five behind Willie Mays.

Mark Teixeira homered off Norris (1-0) two batters



Cleveland Indians' Yan Gomes celebrates after beating the tag from Houston Astros catcher Hank Conger to score in the second inning of a baseball game, Thursday, April 9, 2015, in Houston. Associated Press

later, cutting it to 5-3, but Encarnacion homered off Esmil Rogers in the eighth. Miguel Castro pitched a perfect ninth for his first career save.

TIGERS 7, TWINS 1

DETROIT (AP) — Shane Greene helped Detroit set the modern AL record for the longest shutout streak to start a season at 24 innings in a victory over Minnesota.

After the start was delayed by rain for over 3 1/2 hours, new Twins manager Paul Molitor's team dropped to 0-3. And when Minnesota scored its lone run in the seventh, it was unearned. Detroit broke the AL mark of 22 innings set by the 1947 Chicago White Sox, STATS said. The longest such streak in the majors since 1912 is 32 innings by the 1963 St. Louis Cardinals. Greene (1-0) gave up four hits in eight innings and struck out five. Kyle Gibson (0-1) allowed six runs on eight hits and five walks in 3 2/3 innings.

The Twins scored when Joe Mauer walked and Kennys Vargas hit a double that was misplayed by left fielder Yoenis Cespedes. The franchise's previous worst run drought at the start of a year was 20 innings by the 1940 Washington Senators.

METS 6, NATIONALS 3

WASHINGTON (AP) — Matt Harvey was dynamic in his return from Tommy John surgery, outpitching Stephen Strasburg with six scoreless innings, regularly

reaching 97 mph and striking out nine to lead New York past Washington. The 26-year-old Harvey hadn't appeared in a regular-season game since Aug. 24, 2013, nearly 20 months ago; he had the ligament-replacement operation on his right elbow that October.

The righty powered fastballs by hitters — he struck out Bryce Harper three times swinging at high heat — and mixed in sharp breaking balls. Harvey (1-0) gave up four hits and one walk.

Strasburg (0-1) allowed six runs — three earned — and nine hits in 5 1-3 innings. The Mets batted around in the third to score four runs, three unearned because of shortstop Ian Desmond's third error of the season. Strasburg left after giving up David Wright's two-run single in the sixth.

GIANTS 1, PADRES 0, 12 INNINGS

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Pinch-hitter Justin Maxwell had an RBI single with two outs in the 12th inning and San Francisco spoiled new-look San Diego's home opener. The Giants won despite being held to six hits by six pitchers. The lone run came against Nick Vincent (0-1) consisted of an error, an intentional walk and Maxwell's single.

Brandon Crawford reached with one out when backpedaling shortstop Clint Barmes dropped his pop fly in shallow left. With two outs, Gregor

Blanco was intentionally walked before Maxwell, batting for winner George Kontos, singled up the middle.

Kontos (1-0) allowed one hit and struck out two in 1 2-3 innings.

Santiago Casilla pitched the 12th for his third save in three chances.

ROYALS 4, WHITE SOX 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Edinson Volquez dazzled

for eight innings in his Royals debut, Lorenzo Cain made a pair of spectacular catches after driving in a run, and Kansas City beat Chicago to finish a season-opening sweep.

Salvador Perez added a two-run homer, Kendrys Morales also drove in a run and the AL champion Royals improved to 3-0 for the first time since an opening sweep of Detroit in 2008. □



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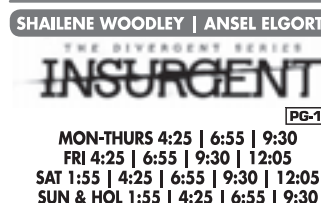


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FRI 4:30 | 6:20 | 7:30 | 10:30
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SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
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NBA Roundup Curry breaks 3-point record as Warriors beat Blazers

The Associated Press
OAKLAND, California (AP) — **OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** — Stephen Curry eclipsed his own NBA record for most 3-pointers in a season, scoring 45 points to rally the Golden State Warriors to a 116-105 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Thursday night. Curry entered the game four shy of his mark of 272 3-pointers, which he set two years ago in the season finale at Portland. He hit six before halftime and **Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, right, shoots over Portland Trail Blazers' Nicolas Batum (88) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, April 9, 2015, in Oakland, Calif.** **Associated Press**

eight overall, teaming with fellow Splash Brothers star Klay Thompson to bring the Warriors back from 13 points down. Curry added nine assists, and Thompson scored 26 to help Golden State avoid its first three-game losing streak this season. LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and six rebounds, and Damian Lillard added 20 points and eight assists for the Blazers, who have already have locked up the Northwest Division. **BULLS 89, HEAT 78** **MIAMI (AP)** — Pau Gasol had 16 points and 15 rebounds and Chicago Bulls easily wiped out a 19-point halftime deficit to deal a huge blow to Miami's play-

off hopes. Aaron Brooks and Taj Gibson each scored 14 points for the Bulls, who were outscored 33-12 in the second quarter — then went on a staggering 39-8 run to open the second half. Miami missed its first 12 shots after halftime, and the freefall never stopped. Mike Dunleavy and Derrick Rose each had 12 for Chicago, which moved back into the No. 3 spot in the Eastern Conference standings. Hassan Whiteside had 19 points and 16 rebounds for the Heat. Dwyane Wade scored nine points, shooting just 4 for 20. The Heat were outscored 57-27 after halftime. □

PBC

Continued from Page 17

PBC aims to showcase boxing to a broader audience by airing fights on traditional broadcast TV, including prime-time bouts on NBC and afternoon telecasts on CBS. It also could boost the sport simply by increasing the frequency that top boxers step into the ring.

"You're going to see these guys fight two, three times a year, which I think is great for the sport and is certainly good for them," Miller said Friday.

While Haymon Boxing is funding the series, NBC is putting the full weight of its resources behind it. Marv Albert, Al Michaels and Bob Costas will work together for the first time for Saturday's broadcast, in which Quillin faces Andy Lee and Danny Garcia takes on Lamont Peterson. NBC is using its Olympics approach, weaving in stories about the boxers' lives in hopes that viewers make an emotional connection. But if fans fall for a fighter then he doesn't return to the ring for another 11 months, that momentum is lost.

"When they win, and then they fight again, you're more invested than you ever were," Miller said. They fight enough times, win enough times, and win fans enough times, then these boxers can move up to pay-per-view.

"We had Adrien Broner and Keith Thurman win on our air in March; we'd love to see both of those



In this Jan. 14, 2015, file photo, boxing greats, from left, Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran and Thomas Hearns joke around while posing for pictures during a news conference in New York for NBC's "Premier Boxing Champions."

Associated Press

guys fight again on our air, whether it's in June or whenever it is," Miller said. "Obviously whoever wins these fights tomorrow night, we want to see those guys fight on our air down the road."

"And eventually one of those welterweights is going to emerge — whether it's Keith Thurman or Danny Garcia or Adrien Broner — and will likely fight the Mayweather-Pacquiao winner at some point.

That really is how this thing becomes successful."

Another way this becomes successful is for Haymon Boxing's television partners — which include ESPN and Spike along with NBC and CBS — to eventually start paying for the rights to televise the fights under a more traditional fee model. The ratings for the first PBC telecast on NBC suggested there is value for the network, with view-

ership in the advertiser-coveted demographic of adults ages 18-49 up 56 percent from a typical Saturday night. "We've got a couple years to really build this thing up," Miller said. "Nothing would make us happier, to be honest with you, than at the end of the current term that this thing had become so valuable and such a dependable deliverable that we would step up and change the dynamic." □

Online excitement but no long lines for Apple Watch debut

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) —

An online rush replaced the traditional overnight queues outside Apple stores Friday as the iconic tech company began taking orders and letting shoppers get their hands on its much-vaunted smartwatch for the first time.

Eager customers placed online orders for the Apple Watch as soon as Apple's website began accepting them, shortly after midnight Pacific Time. Within half an hour, the company appeared to sell out the initial batch of watches that were available for the first official day of shipping on April 24. By midmorning, Apple's website was showing the earliest shipping date for many watch models would be in June or later.

Demand was difficult to gauge, since Apple hasn't said how many watches were available for shipping in the first wave on April 24. And in contrast with earlier releases of new Apple products, there were no big lines of shoppers waiting all night outside the company's retail stores.

That's because Apple encouraged customers to make appointments for a 15-minute opportunity to try on different models — which are priced start-



A customer tries on an Apple Watch at an Apple Store in Hong Kong Friday, April 10, 2015.

Associated Press

ing at \$349 and go up to \$17,000 for a luxury edition — while specially trained employees explained their features. Apple is only accepting orders online, for now.

But the debut still came with some of the anticipation and marketing sizzle for which Apple Inc. is famous. Apple retail staffers in New York, Atlanta and other cities clapped and cheered as the first customers streamed through their stores' signature glass doors just before 10 a.m. Eager shoppers also exam-

ined the watch at shops in London, Shanghai and Tokyo.

Student Victor Leung was grinning from ear to ear after finishing his watch appointment and placing his order for a lower-priced sport model at the Apple store on New York's 5th Avenue.

He said he'd been waiting eagerly for the opportunity to buy one.

"It's awesome," Leung said. "You get texts on your watch, make phone calls." While he has tried other smartwatches, he thinks

"Apple is different."

Despite Leung's enthusiasm, analysts said Apple may have good reasons to sell the watch through pre-orders and appointments. Online ordering should help Apple manage its inventory and manufacturing. The try-on visits should help ensure that early buyers know what to expect and how to use the watch, said Carolina Milanesi, a tech analyst at Kantar Worldpanel. She said that could build positive "word of mouth" recommendations.

And some analysts said the lag time in shipping may help build anticipation while the company works to convince other customers — those who aren't early tech adopters — why they should want this new category of gadget.

"Our view is it's going to take time for the consumer to adopt wearable technology," said Angelo Zino, analyst at S&P Capital IQ.

"We're very positive on the long-term trends for wearables and we think Apple is going to be a clear leader in the category," Zino said this week. But he added, "We think initial sales are going to be below expectations."

Apple, which is based in Cupertino, California, hasn't offered any estimates, but some analysts have predicted the company could sell 10 million to 20 million watches this year. By comparison, it sold more than 10 million of its new iPhone 6 and 6 Plus smartphones in the first weekend they were available last September, and a record total of 74.5 million iPhones in the fourth quarter last year.

Some shoppers needed no convincing on Friday. Jack Weber, a retired University of Virginia professor, said he woke up at 3 a.m. to order a \$1,000 stainless steel Apple Watch online. □

Internet naming body moves to crack down on '.sucks'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The body that regulates Internet addresses is checking to see if it can crack down on a Canadian company accused of using the new ".sucks" domain name to extract exorbitant sums from celebrities and companies seeking to protect their public brands.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN, on Thursday sent a letter to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and Canada's Office of Consumer Affairs to see

if the actions of company Vox Populi Registry Ltd. are illegal.

ICANN initially approved of the so-called top-level domain name, among nearly 600 it has added recently to expand beyond common names such as ".com," ".org" and ".us."

But it is backtracking after an advisory panel made up of industry groups and companies like Microsoft, Verizon and eBay complained last month.

Vox Populi began accepting registrations using

".sucks" on March 30 from trademark holders and celebrities before it's released to public applicants. It has recommended charging \$2,499 a year for the privilege, and according to Vox Populi CEO John Berard, most of the names have been sold by resellers for around \$2,000 a year.

So far, purchased names include Youtube.sucks, Bing.sucks, Visa.sucks, Bankofamerica.sucks, Yahoo.sucks, Telusmobility.sucks and other major brand names. □



In this Feb. 15, 2015 file photo, singer Taylor Swift attends the SNL 40th Anniversary Special in New York. Associated Press

Walgreens aims to close about 200 U.S. stores

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

Walgreens will shutter about 200 U.S. stores as part of an expanded cost reduction push, but the nation's largest drugstore chain has no plans to shrink in the wake of its combination with European health and beauty retailer Alliance Boots.

The Deerfield, Illinois, company expects to open roughly the same number of stores and will consider more mergers and acquisitions, even as it continues to digest a nearly \$16 billion deal that finalized its combination with Alliance Boots, which runs the United Kingdom's largest pharmacy chain.

The store closings that Walgreens announced Thursday amount to only about 2 percent of the 8,232 drugstores the company runs in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Nevertheless, the closings are the latest example of a strategy shift for a company that was opening about 500 stores a year a decade ago. Walgreens once estimated that it was opening



The sign above a Walgreens entrance, is seen in this Sept. 28, 2009 file photo taken in Gloucester, Mass.

a new store every 17 hours on average.

Major drugstore chains once focused mainly on growing by adding locations. Now, they're trying to squeeze more revenue out of each store by expanding and improving the services they offer and making them more competitive with the grocery chains and big retailers like Wal-Mart that have muscled into the prescription business.

Walgreens also announced the closing of 76 stores last year. The latest round comes as the company expands on a \$1 billion, three-year cost reduction plan it announced in August.

The company hasn't finalized the list of stores it will close, but Walgreen Co. President Alex Gourlay told analysts it was looking at locations where the population seemed to be moving away.

"This really is just getting the right stores in the right places," he said.

Walgreens also said it will reorganize its corporate operations and streamline its information technology and other functions. It expects these moves to add \$500 million to its cost reduction goal.

Executive Vice Chairman and Acting CEO Stefano Pessina said in a statement from Walgreens that he remains "as optimistic as ever" about the company's future, but they need to work proactively to address challenges like growing pressure on reimbursement for pharmaceuticals and competition.

Drugstore chains have been dealing with shrinking profitability in their

main business, prescription drugs, as the gap narrows between the wholesale cost of drugs and the reimbursement pharmacies receive for filling prescriptions. Late last year, Walgreens completed its purchase of the remaining stake of Alliance Boots that it didn't already own. The company was renamed Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc.

Walgreens initially bought a 45 percent stake in Alliance Boots in 2012 for about \$6.7 billion in cash and stock. Company executives told analysts Thursday that the company may not be done growing. They said more deals are among their top priorities for free cash, along with share buybacks, in terms of boosting shareholder value in the long run. That could mean another acquisition or a joint venture that it works out while Walgreens and Alliance Boots complete their integration. "If we ... see opportunities, we will be ready," Pessina said during a conference call. Walgreens also said Thursday that it earned \$2.04 billion, or \$1.93 per share, in its fiscal second quarter. Earnings, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, were \$1.18 per share, which beat analyst expectations. Walgreens also announced a forecast for full-year earnings in the range of \$3.45 to \$3.65 per share. □

Associated Press

U.S. oil and natural gas rig count drops by 40 to 988

HOUSTON (AP) — Oilfield services company Baker Hughes Inc. says the number of rigs exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. declined by 40 this week to 988 amid depressed oil prices. It was the first time the weekly count was below 1,000 since September 2009.

Houston-based Baker Hughes said Friday 760 rigs were seeking oil and 225 explored for natural gas. Three were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, 1,831 rigs were active.

Among major oil- and gas-producing states, Texas plummeted by 29 rigs, Oklahoma was down five, New Mexico by four and North Dakota dropped



In this Dec. 19, 2014 file photo, oil pump jacks work in unison, in Williston, N.D.

Associated Press

two. Colorado, Ohio and Wyoming declined by one each. Arkansas and Kansas each rose by one. Alaska, California, Louisiana, Penn-

sylvania, Utah and West Virginia were all unchanged. The U.S. rig count peaked at 4,530 in 1981 and bottomed at 488 in 1999. □

PC sales declined again in first quarter

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Weak demand for desktop computers caused PC sales to plunge again in the first quarter of this year, reflecting the industry's ongoing struggles with the shift to smartphones, tablets and other mobile gadgets.

One big reason for the decline was businesses buying fewer desktop computers, according to the Gartner research firm. It noted com-

panies have mostly finished replacing older PCs that used outdated Windows XP software.

PC sales may get a boost later this year when Microsoft Corp. releases its next version of Windows, analysts said, but they're still expecting an overall decline in sales for this year.

One bright spot identified by Gartner was an increase in sales of laptop computers and hybrid models that combine features of tablets and laptops. □

GE pares off financial unit and returns to industrial roots

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

General Electric is leaving the lending business, a major source of both profit and risk, as it continues to whittle its focus down to an industrial core.

The company said Friday that it will sell most of its GE Capital assets over the next two years, shedding businesses in a sector where it has had a tough time generating acceptable returns. GE also plans to repurchase as much as \$50 billion of its own stock. Shares of GE climbed to their highest price in almost two years Friday after the company announced the buybacks and the return to a simpler focus that investors have favored.

In addition to the GE Capital sale, the company will sell most of its GE Capital Real Estate to funds managed by the investment firm Blackstone.

Wells Fargo will buy a portion of the loans at closing. The company plans to sell additional commercial real estate assets that will bring the total value of the deals to around \$26.5 billion.

The once broadly diverse conglomerate has been steadily shedding businesses as it focuses more on building industrial machines like aircraft engines and medical imaging equipment and selling big, complex products like power generators and oil and gas equipment.

Last September, it announced the sale of its appliance division to the Swedish appliance maker Electrolux for \$3.3 billion. Before that deal,

it spun off its consumer credit card business into a new company, Synchrony Financial. In recent years it also has sold NBC Universal and its insurance operations.

An extended run of low-interest rates has made GE's latest divestiture more feasible for the company.

"We see a very attractive market for selling our assets," GE Capital Chairman and CEO Keith Sherin told investors during a conference call. "Bottom line, we think the timing's right to execute this strategic shift." With the shift, GE expects that more than 90 percent

of its earnings will be generated by its industrial business by 2018. That compares with 58 percent in 2014.

While the financial division generates nearly half of the company's profit, is also presents a huge regulatory burden and has caused some anxiety for investors. Heavy exposure to commercial and residential mortgages threatened GE's existence during the financial crisis.

Company officials noted that GE Capital's return on equity slipped to 8.6 percent in the fourth quarter of last year from 13.1 percent in the final quarter of 2008.

The company plans to shed most of its commercial lending and leasing segment, including all of its U.S. and international banking assets.

GE is moving back toward a business that investors can understand better, said Edward Jones analyst Logan Purk.

"At the end of the day, when half your business is a bank, you get a lower valuation and less credit in the marketplace," he said.



In this file photo taken Dec. 2, 2008, a General Electric (GE) sign is seen on display at Western Appliance store in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

GE is already in talks with regulators about removing its designation as a "Systemically Important Financial Institution," which comes with a myriad of requirements not asked of an almost purely industrial entity.

The company will keep parts of its financing business related to its industrial operations, like GE Capital Aviation Services, Energy Financial Services and

Healthcare Equipment Finance. The company says it will record about \$16 billion in after-tax charges in the first quarter.

But the company also said it expects to return \$90 billion to shareholders through the buyback, its dividend and the Synchrony split.

Shares of GE soared almost 8 percent, or \$2.04, to \$27.77 in midday trading Friday, while broader indexes were largely flat. □

Stocks close higher for second week

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks advanced Friday, capping off a second straight weekly advance for the market. Investors were encouraged by the latest corporate deal news, that General Electric would be selling its long-struggling lending business. Investors are turning their focus to next week, when corporate earnings ramp up. So far the outlook isn't encouraging. With economic sluggishness in the U.S. and Europe, as well as the rapid appreciation of the dollar, analysts expect first-quarter results to be down 4.6 percent.

"Earnings are not going to be down because the U.S. economy is struggling," said James Liu, global market strategist at JPMorgan Funds. "It's going to be



This Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, file photo shows the facade of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

because of what has happened in energy and the dollar."

Next week the nation's biggest banks will report their results, including Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Goldman Sachs. Thirty-five of the

members of the Standard & Poor's 500 will report their results, as well as seven members of the Dow Jones industrial average

On Friday the Dow rose 98.92 points, or 0.6 percent, to 18,057.65. The S&P 500 rose 10.88 points, or 0.5 per-

cent, to 2,102.06 and the Nasdaq composite rose 21.41 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,995.98.

It was a solid week for the market overall. The Dow and S&P 500 each rose 1.7 percent, while the Nasdaq rose 2.2 percent. The U.S. stock market has not had two straight weeks of gains since mid-February.

Most of this week's gains can be attributed to the Federal Reserve. After the disappointing March jobs report released April 3, traders now believe that the nation's central bank is not going to raise interest rates until September instead of the originally anticipated June timeframe. William Dudley, president of the Federal Reserve's New York branch, said Monday that the Fed's rate increases would be "shallow" when he cited the re-

cent weak economic data including the jobs report.

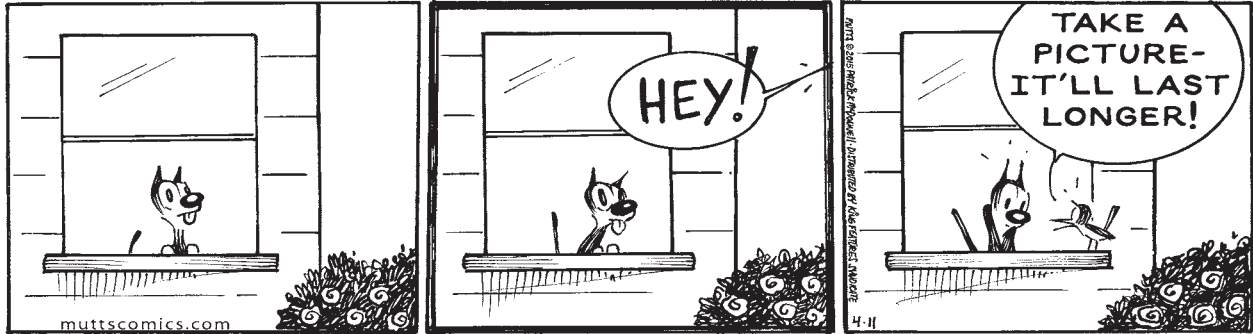
"I think we are still looking at two rate hikes this year, but they will likely be later this year," JPMorgan's Liu said.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.95 percent. The dollar edged down to 120.20 yen from 120.57 yen while the euro fell to \$1.0597 from \$1.0662.

In energy markets, the price of oil rose Friday after a closely-watched count of working drill rigs declined more sharply than expected, suggesting supplies will soon fall.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 85 cents to close at \$51.64 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, rose \$1.30 to close at \$57.87 in London. □

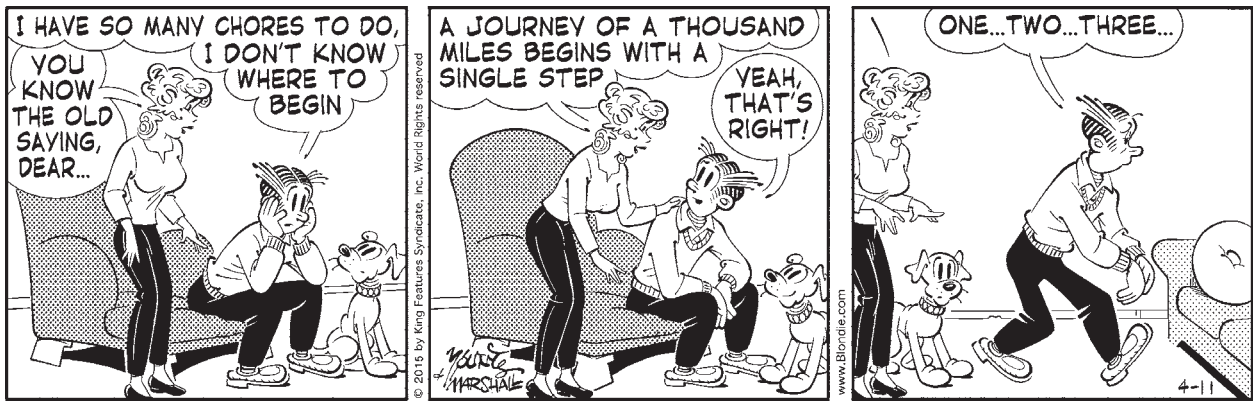
Mutts



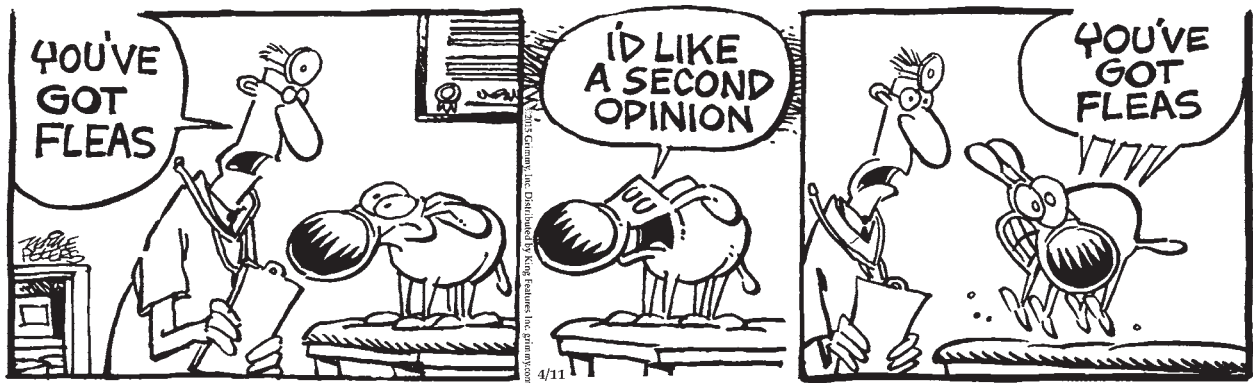
6 Chix



Blondie



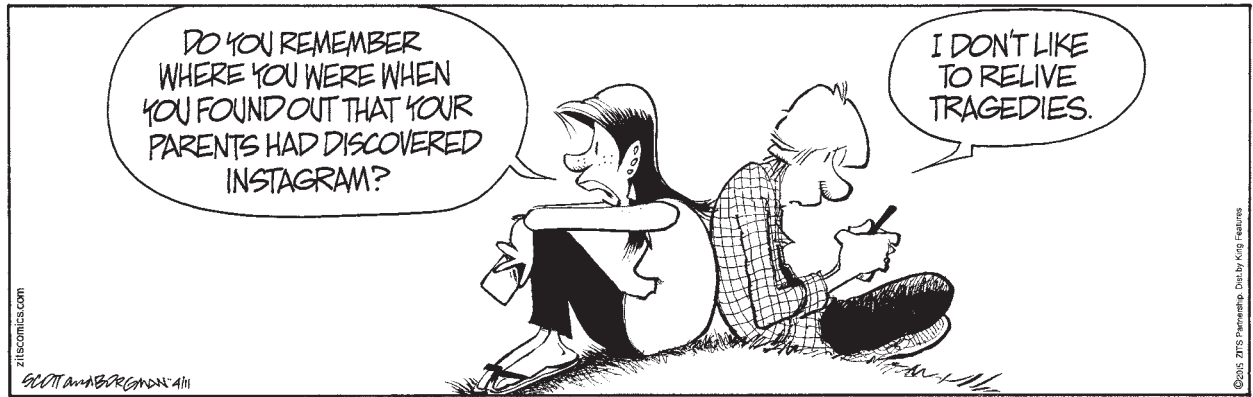
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1		6		4		3	5	
	5				9			8
9								4
			2				6	
7								2
	3				1			
8								6
2			1				8	
	9	3		8		4		5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	7	5	3	2	1	4	6	8
3	6	8	9	7	4	2	5	1
2	1	4	6	5	8	3	7	9
1	5	9	8	4	2	6	3	7
7	8	3	1	6	5	9	4	2
6	4	2	7	3	9	8	1	5
8	9	7	4	1	3	5	2	6
5	3	1	2	9	6	7	8	4
4	2	6	5	8	7	1	9	3

ACROSS

- Purina Dog
- Blaze residue
- Guide for the Magi
- Area
- New England state
- Ring of light
- Tavern drinks
- Go a limb; take a risk
- TV show award
- Calm; serene
- Good-for-nothing
- Hearing organ
- Representative
- Glass fragment
- Speedometer letters
- Worked at a blackjack table
- Merit; deserve
- Jolt; disturb
- Lifter's woe
- Actor Vigoda
- Blood vessel in the neck
- on; apply, as makeup
- Actor Hal
- Dessert choice
- Thyme or basil
- Primly solemn
- Dad
- Domineering
- Bank vaults
- Brief life sketch
- Clothing
- Crowds
- together, like a football team
- Messy person
- Stomach woe
- Racing sled
- On an even
- Actress Bo
- Egg on
- Identical
- Fashion
- State of clutter

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21			22		23				
			24				25							
26	27	28				29				30	31	32	33	
34					35				36					
37					38				39				40	
41			42				43					44		
45							46				47			
			48		49				50					
51	52	53					54				55	56	57	
58							59	60				61		
62							63					64		
65							66					67		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/11/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

ASSET	ABCS	FUSS
PLANE	NOAH	INTO
EAGLE	DATA	STUN
STEADIER	MUSING	
CONS	RESULTS	
BEREFT	RISER	
AYE	FETID	READS
REAL	RAVEN	SHOP
ADMIT	LASER	ALE
SHALL	WASTED	
STATELY	VEIL	
WILLEM	TERMINAL	
ABLE	OGRE	EVADE
MIAS	SOUR	NERDS
PAYS	TOES	TRYST

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4/11/15

- Any of Zane Grey's books
- Love, in Paris
- Writer Bellow
- Punch
- Sufficient amount
- Feel; perceive
- Animal; spot for homeless dogs and cats
- Easy to handle
- Charitable gift
- Rogers & Clark
- Passing craze
- Said no more
- Suitable
- Official stamps
- Customary practice
- Amphitheater
- Spoil; deface
- Mountains of South America
- Perjurers
- House cat
- Start of the yr.
- Hurry
- Fragrant wood

DOWN

- Old title for Russian rulers
- Donut's center
- Individuals

- Inquires
- "Guilty" or "Not guilty"
- "Trees" or "If"
- Part of the foot
- Entice; draw
- Oval edibles
- Notices
- Weep

Officials: Orlando was top U.S. tourist destination in 2014

MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) —

More than 62 million visitors came to Orlando last year, making the theme-park mecca the most-visited tourist destination in the U.S., city tourism officials said Thursday.

The 2014 visitor count sets a new milestone for the U.S. tourism industry and was a 5 percent increase from the previous year, according to local tourism agency Visit Orlando.

In a statement, U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow called passing the mark of 60 million visitors a year "a significant achievement for Orlando and the U.S. travel industry."

Officials with Orlando's closest competitor in tourism numbers, New York City, said that while the Florida destination had more tourists overall, the Big Apple still was No. 1 with international visitors, followed by Miami and Los Angeles. That doesn't capture visitors who entered the United States elsewhere and traveled to the destination.

Of New York City's 56.4 million visitors last year, 12.2 million were from abroad. Orlando had about half as many international visitors. Orlando tourism officials attributed the boom to renovations and expansions at the area's many theme parks. Universal Orlando opened Diagon Alley, its second Harry Potter-themed attraction. Walt Disney World completed New Fantasyland.

Tourism officials said the visitors contributed \$200 million in hotel tax collections for Orange County in 2014, also a record.

Visit Orlando calculated the visitor numbers using figures from the National Office of Travel and Tourism and two research firms: Smith Travel Research and DK Shifflet. □

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Ocean view \$16k
Ocean side \$17500
Ocean front \$28900
3 BEDRM OV \$27k
Plat. Plus Holiday 51 OV \$46k
Plat. Plus NY 52 OV \$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

GOLD Season

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NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
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TAXI-TAS	587-5900
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TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
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April 11 Freewinds
April 13 Monarch



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Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

U.S. group on mission to save lives with recycled hotel soap

BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Shawn Seipler is on a mission to save lives with soap.

It began about seven years ago as a tiny operation with a few friends and family in a single car garage in Orlando, Florida, where they used meat grinders, potato peelers and cookers to recycle used soap into fresh bars.

The nonprofit initiative, now called Clean the World, has since grown to include industrial recycling facilities in Las Vegas, Orlando and Hong Kong, cities where hotels are plentiful and used bars of soap can be gathered easily by the thousands.

As a frequent traveler while working for a tech company, Seipler had a thought one night at a Minneapolis hotel.

"I picked up the phone and called the front desk and asked them what happens to the bar of soap when I'm done using it," he recalled. "They said they just threw it away."

Seipler, now the group's CEO, said that after some research he discovered that millions of used bars of soap from hotels worldwide are sent to landfills every day while many people in developing nations are dying from illnesses that could potentially be prevented if they only had access to simple hygiene products.

Thus began his mission to help save lives with soap and even half-used bottled amenities like shampoo.

"It's a huge problem," said Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of preventative medicine and infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in

Nashville, Tennessee. "One of the most common kinds of illnesses in the world are those that are transmitted from person to person and to oneself because of germs that are on one's hands."

In the U.S. and other developed nations, Schaffner noted, people take hygiene products for granted because they are everywhere

"It's such a fundamental part of the interruption of transmission of infectious agents that could save so many lives," he said. "It's not a magic wand, but it's a very important element."

Clean the World this week announced it was partnering with the similar Global Soap organization to increase production, hy-

that remove any residual bacteria before being pressed into new bars of soap and packaged for delivery. The group uses local aid and non-governmental organizations to help with distribution and ongoing education, along with sending their own teams into rural communities around the world to personally hand-deliver hygiene



In this March 20, 2015, photo, Aaron Weatherly collects newly formed soap at Clean the World in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

— soap in public restrooms and even cleanser wipes at the entrances of grocery stores to sanitize shopping cart handles.

Not so in some other countries, where Schaffner recalled visiting a hospital once in the Middle East to find that soap was in such short supply that patients had to provide their own or go without.

giene education and delivery.

The combined group now collects used soap from more than 4,000 hotels and says it has delivered some 25 million bars to 99 countries, including homeless shelters in the U.S.

The process is fairly simple with the collected soap being shredded then run through machines

products and to teach residents about the importance of keeping clean.

"A lot of people are surprised to find out that one of the most effective ways to prevent many deaths is actually just hand-washing with soap," said Global Soap's director Sam Stephens. "We're hoping to make a difference." □

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In this May 22, 2013, file photo, author Dan Savage appears at his home in Seattle.

Associated Press

Conservative groups attempting to kill prospective ABC show

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Conservative groups are trying to kill in the cradle a prospective ABC sitcom about a family upended when a teenage son comes out as gay because sex columnist and gay rights activist Dan Savage is involved in the production.

The Media Research Center and Family Research Council said their members have sent more than 21,000 postcards and made more than 4,000 telephone calls asking ABC to abandon the series, tentatively titled "The Real O'Neals." ABC is not commenting on the effort, while Savage said it is misdirected.

The show, which features actress Martha Plimpton as the family matriarch, is one of 12 comedy pilots the network is considering. Generally, about half of those pilots — at most — will get the green light.

Savage, author of the "Savage Love" advice column, said the series evolved out of a meeting he had with ABC executives where aspects of his childhood that he has written about were discussed.

While elements of the pilot were inspired by his experiences growing up in Chicago — the father is a Chicago police officer — the show "has evolved throughout the development process and it wouldn't be accurate to describe it as autobiographical," said Savage, an executive pro-

ducer of the series.

In some respects, the series development appears similar to the current ABC comedy "Fresh Off the Boat." That show, about a Taiwanese family trying to adjust to life in the United States, was inspired by food personality Eddie Huang's memoir about his childhood.

Savage's very involvement angers the conservative groups. In a letter sent to Ben Sherwood, president of the Disney/ABC Television Group, MRC president L. Brent Bozell and Family Research Council President Tony Perkins cited Savage's "radical hate speech" and "venomous anti-Christian bigotry."

"They're choosing him for his signature, which is religious bigotry and personal offensiveness, not because he's gay," Bozell said. "There are a thousand and one gay people they could have chosen."

Savage wrote in 2000 about volunteering for Republican Gary Bauer's presidential campaign and, suffering from the flu, licking doorknobs in the campaign office in an attempt to infect others. He also tried to give a definition involving a gay sex act to Republican Rick Santorum's name on Google. "A campaign for or against the show isn't relevant at this point as the pilot isn't even finished yet," Savage said. "Again, the campaign ... is misdirected, as the show isn't by me — I'm not one of the writers — and it isn't about me." □



In this May 12, 2014 file photo, actress and singer Rita Moreno attends People en Espanol's "50 Most Beautiful" Issue Celebration in New York.

Associated Press

Rita Moreno relishes playing the diva on 'Jane the Virgin'

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rita Moreno's guest-starring turn Monday on "Jane the Virgin" represents a tribute from the comedy's young Latina star, Gina Rodriguez, to the trailblazer who helped pave her way.

"I was approached (for the role) because of Gina," Moreno said. "She told me some wonderful things about how I inspired her, great stuff that made me feel very proud."

Looking back, Moreno, 83, marvels at the stage, screen and TV career that made a "little Puerto Rican girl" one of the rare performers to win the supersized awards combo: Oscar, Tony, Grammy and Emmy trophies.

"It astonishes me that I've come this far. I'm humbled by it and thrilled by it," Moreno said in a phone call this week from New York.

The path wasn't always easy. Her early movie years were filled with what she calls "dusky maiden" roles because Hollywood found it difficult to see Latinos, especially actresses, beyond stereotypes.

"I can't remember playing roles in movies that did not require an accent and very dark makeup. ... Even in 'West Side Story,' it was (director) Jerome Robbins' idea that all of the Sharks

have very dark skin, because he wanted a contrast between the Sharks and the Jets," she said, referring to the musical's Latino and Anglo street gangs. "I remember resenting that," she said of the production that brought her an Academy Award. "I thought, 'I'm Puerto Rican. I don't look like that.'" She's pleased to see evolution in the entertainment industry that has led to shows including CW's "Jane The Virgin," focused on a Latino family.

"There's actually a lot of progress. I don't think it's enough but, my God, when you compare that to when I was a young woman in movies, it's totally different," Moreno said.

The veteran actress retains the vibrancy to take advantage of the changes, with a role in a comedy pilot that's under consideration by CBS as well as an upcoming album of Spanish-language songs, aimed at a May release.

Her guest role part on CW's riff on telenovelas proved a delight for Moreno: A bad guy, or at least an imperious woman, who sweeps heedlessly into the lives of her son, TV star Rogelio (Jaime Camil), and Xiomara (Andrea Navedo), who are Jane's parents.

"She is a real diva, a rude woman who spouts off

mean things to people," Moreno said, delight in her voice. "When she comes on the scene you find out that Rogelio is a real mama's boy."

The character, Liliana, doesn't have a warm relationship with Xiomara, Moreno said, and for "such a hilarious reason. I don't want to give it away because it's silly and funny. But in telenovelas, anything can happen."

"Gina said to me early on, 'The person I most admire more than anyone is Rita Moreno. It would be my dream come true if she could come on the show,'" recalled executive producer Jennie Snyder Urman.

Moreno turned out to be everybody's dream, Urman said. "She came with so much energy and passion and enthusiasm. ... She just invigorated our cast and crew. Everybody was so stunned and honored to be working with her."

The star's focus now is on her as-yet untitled upcoming album, her first in more than two decades. Emilio Estefan, husband of Gloria Estefan, is the producer.

"The compliment is I still have a voice," Moreno said, proving it by crooning a few bars of one of the album's songs, "Concierto de Aranjuez," the famed composition by Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo. □

What happens to Hollywood's push for diversity after Oscars?

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The "Fast & Furious" series is often cited as an example of how diversity can work in Hollywood. With its multicultural casts and international settings, the franchise has generated more than \$2.4 billion in global earnings. The latest installment, "Furious 7," set box-office records last week-end with its \$147-million domestic opening.

"Usually, big studio tent-pole films are all very white-washed," says "Furious 7" director James Wan. "People need to learn from this because this is the way of the future."

Wan says the "Furious" films play well globally "because they have people from that part of the world in the movies and they're not treated like second-class citizens."

The dearth of diversity in Hollywood was heavy on the entertainment industry's mind during awards season, when the #Oscar-SoWhite hashtag went viral and host Neil Patrick Harris joked about honoring the "best and whitest — sorry — brightest" at the Academy Awards.

Yet despite the success of films like "Furious 7" and increased awareness of the industry's white, male status quo, change won't



In this Wed., April 1, 2015 file photo, James Wan, center, Tyrese Gibson, left, and Ludacris arrive at the premiere of "Furious 7" at the TCL Chinese Theatre IMAX, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

be seen onscreen anytime soon.

A survey by The Associated Press shows that of about 170 films scheduled for release through the end of the year, 32 feature actors of color in prominent roles. True, this year's movies were made before the Oscar outcry. But whether on-screen diversity improves over time as production catches up to new awareness remains to be seen. One thing's for certain, though: Much work lies ahead.

Studies by researchers at UCLA and USC show vast

underrepresentation of women and minorities in every aspect of filmmaking.

"Recognizing a problem and changing it are two very different beasts," said Cathy Schulman, the Oscar-winning producer of "Crash" and president of Women in Film.

In insular, high-risk, high-profit Hollywood, change has to be insistent and intentional, said Darnell Hunt, director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA. "It's not going to correct itself naturally," said the soci-

ology professor, co-author of UCLA's annual report on minority representation in the industry. "I suspect we'll have more and more dysfunction and lack of alignment of people in the industry holding onto an approach they've had for generations and ignoring where America is."

His team's ongoing study of the entertainment industry aims to quantify the relationship between diversity and profitability. Their second annual Hollywood diversity report, released in February, shows that while women and minorities are

underrepresented across entertainment relative to the U.S. population, movies and TV shows with diverse casts tend to perform well in ratings and at the box office.

"There's a myth of people of color not being viable internationally when the rest of the world is diverse," Hunt said.

Film and TV studio heads — found by the UCLA study to be overwhelmingly white and male — usually hire people they've worked with before, which reproduces the dismal ethnic and gender ratios. A recent study by USC and the advocacy group Women in Film shows women have represented fewer than 5 percent of directors of top films during the past two decades.

People of color have made incremental progress recently in some areas of the entertainment business, the UCLA study found. Lead roles for non-white actors in film and TV increased by about 1½ percent in 2013 over the previous year. But even with the success of minority-led TV series such as "The Mindy Project," "Scandal" and "How to Get Away With Murder," non-white show-runners account for less than 6 percent of all broadcast scripted fare, the study found. □



In this March 25, 2015 file photo, Jon Hamm arrives at The Black And Red Ball In Celebration Of The Final Seven Episodes Of "Mad Men" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — "Mad Men" star Jon Hamm took part in a violent university hazing in 1990 at the University of Texas that led to criminal charges, accord-

ing to court and school records obtained Thursday. The Emmy-nominated actor had not previously been publicly linked to a lawsuit filed by a member of a fraternal social organization who said he was

'Mad Men' star Hamm was accused in violent college hazing

severely beaten, dragged by a hammer and had his pants lit on fire. In the 1991 lawsuit, the pledge said Hamm participated "till the very end."

Criminal records show Hamm, now 44, was charged with hazing and received deferred adjudication, which under Texas law means he had to successfully complete probation but was never convicted. A separate charge of assault was dismissed.

Representatives for Hamm and "Mad Men" creator Matthew Weiner did not respond to requests for com-

ment Thursday.

None of the records were sealed, but Hamm was not famous when the incident happened and his connection to the case didn't come to light until Star magazine reported on it this week.

The case resurfaced just as the critically acclaimed "Mad Men" begins airing its final season on AMC.

According to the lawsuit, Hamm became "mad, I mean really mad" after the 20-year-old student joining the fraternity failed to recite things he was supposed to memorize about

Hamm and other fraternity members. For Hamm, his list included "Young Bobby," "MC Hammer" and "UT Football Punching Bag."

The pledge, Mark Allen Sanders, said Hamm went on to set his jeans on fire, shove his face in dirt and strike him with a paddle.

"He rears back and hits me left-handed, and he hit me right over my right kidney, I mean square over it," Sanders said in the lawsuit. "Good solid hit and that, that stood me right up." Sanders said he needed medical care and withdrew from the school. □

The Trader Who Donates Half His Pay



Nicholas Kristof
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Matt Wage was a brilliant, earnest student at Princeton University, a star of the classroom and a deep thinker about his own ethical obligations to the world. His senior thesis won a prize as the year's best in the philosophy department, and he was accepted for postgraduate study at Oxford University.

Instead, after graduation in 2012, he took a job at an arbitrage trading firm on Wall Street.

You might think that his professor, Peter Singer, a moral philosopher, would disown him as a sell-out. Instead, Singer holds him up as a model.

That's because Wage reasoned that if he took a high-paying job in finance, he could contribute more to charity. Sure enough, he says that in 2013 he donated more than \$100,000, roughly half his pretax income.

Wage told me that he plans to remain in finance and donate half his income. One of the major charities Wage gives to is the Against Malaria Foundation, which, by one analyst's calculation, can save a child's life on average for each \$3,340 donated. All this suggests that Wage may save more lives with his donations than if he had become an aid worker.

"One thought I find motivating is to imagine how great you'd feel if you saved someone's life," Wage says. "If you somehow saved a dozen people from a burning building, then you might remember that as one of the greatest things you ever did. But it turns out that saving this many lives is within the reach of ordinary people who simply donate a piece of their income."

Hm. Wage may be the only finance guy who I wish could be paid more!

Wage is an exemplar of a new movement called "effective altruism," aimed at taking a rigorous, nonsentimental approach to making the maximum difference in the world. Singer has been a leader in this movement, and in a book scheduled to be released in the coming week he explores what it means to live ethically.

The book, "The Most Good You Can Do," takes a dim view of conventional charitable donations, such as supporting art museums or universities, churches or

dog shelters. Singer asks: Is supporting an art museum really as socially useful as, say, helping people avoid blindness?

After all, an American aid group, Helen Keller International, corrects blindness in the developing world for less than \$75 per patient. It's difficult to see how a modest contribution to a church, opera or university will be as transformative as helping the blind see again.

Even though he's one of the founders of the field of animal rights, Singer is skeptical of support for dog rescue organizations. The real suffering in the animal world, he says, is in industrial agriculture, for there are about 50 times as many animals raised and slaughtered in factory farms in the United States each year as there are dogs and cats that are pets in America. The way to ease the pain of the greatest number of animals, he says, is to focus on chickens.

GiveWell, a website reflecting the ethos of the effective giving movement, recommends particular charities for cost-effectiveness. Its top recommendations at the moment are Against Malaria Foundation, GiveDirectly (transferring money directly to the very poor), Schistosomiasis Control Initiative (inexpensively combating a common parasite), and Deworm the World Initiative (deworming children).

Singer himself donates about one-third of his income to charity, he says, and I admire his commitment. Still, I wonder about three points.

First, where do we draw the line? If we're prepared to donate one-third of our incomes to maximize happiness, then why not two-thirds? Why not live in a tent in a park so as to be able to donate 99 percent and prevent even more cases of blindness?

I want to take my wife to dinner without guilt; I want to be able to watch a movie without worrying that I should instead be buying a bed net.

There is more to life than self-mortification, and obsessive cost-benefit calculus, it seems to me, subtracts from the zest of life.

Second, humanitarianism is noble, but so is loyalty. So are the arts, and I'm uncomfortable choosing one cause and abandoning all others completely.

For my part, I donate mostly to humanitarian causes but also to my universities, in part out of loyalty to institutions that once gave me scholarships.

Third, I flinch at the idea of taking a job solely because it's high-paying - even if the money is to be given away. Bravo to Matt Wage, who says that he relishes his work as an arbitrage trader (now based in Hong Kong), but I'm not sure this would work for everyone.

Still, Singer's argument is powerful, provocative and, I think, basically right. The world would be a better place if we were as tough-minded in how we donate money as in how we make it. □



Good Riddance, Carrie Mathison

Maureen Dowd
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WASHINGTON - The co-creator of "Homeland" on Showtime revealed recently that when the new season starts, Claire Danes' Carrie Mathison will no longer work at the CIA.

Her real-life counterparts can't wait for her to clean out her desk. The CIA sisterhood is fed up with the flock of fictional CIA women in movies and on TV who guzzle alcohol as they bed hop and drone drop, acting crazed and emotional, sleeping with terrorists and seducing assets.

"The problem is that they portray most women in such a one-dimensional way; whatever the character flaw is, that's all they are," said Gina Bennett, a slender, thoughtful mother of five who has been an analyst in the Counterterrorism Center over the course of 25 years and who first began sounding the alarm about Osama bin Laden back in 1993.

"It can leave a very distinct understanding of women at the agency - how we function, how we relate to men, how we engage in national security - that is pretty off," Bennett said. She was sitting in a conference room at Langley decorated with photos of a memorial for the seven CIA officers - including Bennett's close friend Jennifer Matthews - who were blown up in 2009 by a Jordanian double agent in Khost, Afghanistan.

Agreed Sandra Grimes, a perky 69-year-old blonde who helped unmask her CIA colleague Aldrich Ames as a double agent for the Russians after noticing that he had traded up from a battered Volvo to a Jaguar: "I wish they wouldn't use centerfold models in tight clothes. We don't look that way. And we don't act that way."

Indeed, when I ask Bennett if she is wearing a Tory Burch dress, she replies, "I couldn't afford anything like that. It's probably Burlington Coat Factory."

I talked to several current and former women at the CIA at the request of the usually close-lipped agency, which wants to show a stable side missing from portrayals like the one in the new NBC drama "State of Affairs." In the premiere, Katherine Heigl's CIA analyst gets wasted on shots, picks up a stranger and upbraids her shrink for being "judge-y" - all before briefing the woman president. The women I spoke with agreed that the "honey pot" image of CIA women using sex to get secrets, as Carrie did



in "Homeland," was Hollywood sensationalism.

"Let's not kid ourselves," said a retired covert officer named Meredith, one of the first women to spy in hot spots around the globe. "For me, working in the Middle East, there's a lot of attraction for Middle Eastern men for Western women. I don't mean necessarily sexually, although they may be thinking that. But curiosity, if nothing else. And we certainly have played that." With sex, she said, "you need to remove that off the table very quickly and clearly. Sometimes it's 'Get your hands off my knee or I'm going to break it,' or you put as many people into the room as you can."

Bennett said that women are good puzzle solvers. "Women don't think more intuitively than men, but we tend to trust our own gut less," she said. "We are not going to put all our money in one basket."

Their struggle to juggle personal and professional can get intense. "I briefed Condoleezza Rice while in labor," Bennett recalled. "I'd tell her about the global jihad and then I would turn away and breathe. When these two worlds clash, they clash really hard."

Meredith recounted a coup in Africa where she got stuck at an embassy while her three kids were trapped at home alone.

Lyssa Asbill, 38 an analyst now working in the public affairs office, had her first date with her future husband the same day she took her first polygraph exam. She was so jumpy, she thought he would never call her again.

Kali Caldwell, 34, a chic analyst now working with Asbill, said she recruited her mom to help her banker husband take care of their young daughter when she flew off on assignment. She recalled getting 48 hours' notice to go give a terrorism briefing to the military brass of a nation where women are second-class citizens. "Imagine their shock when they got this huge CIA briefing from this little African-American woman," she said.

For Bennett, 9/11 "lasted 10 years." She said that when you are holed up in a windowless office for days at a time trying to unravel and stop a terrorist plot, "to turn and be present and compassionate and patient with a spouse and children is very hard and does take a toll. And I'm not brilliant at it." Tracking the virulent march of the Islamic State, she said, "it's hard to turn around and then care, honestly, about some of the minor things that are everything in your teenager's mind."

"I deal with people who are trying to kill lots of people in horrendous, painful ways. So I have a wall; it's really tall. Unfortunately, though, what happens with time is you can't click it on or off. You just block the sensation of feeling. "I'm no longer married because of my wall. So I have five kids whose parents aren't together because I constructed that wall over time and didn't know how to get through it."

Carrie Mathison is so strung out that she contemplates drowning her baby daughter. But Caldwell said that when she was in the counterterrorism unit, looking at graphic images of children being killed, she would decompress on the way home by calling her mom and stopping to shop or eat sushi.

There has been progress made since the macho days when women were labeled "a bad investment" because they could get pregnant. There's a day care center at Langley now and flex time and the agency recently recruited at a Miami LGBT conference. Bennett said CIA moms might look forward to overseas trips - "I took to calling Kabul 'spa-bul,'" she said, but there was criticism.

"The truth is, when a man takes an overseas assignment and leaves his family, including his children, it's seen as more normal than when a woman does that same thing," Caldwell said.

Matthews was excoriated by her uncle, who had done covert work for the agency, for leaving her three young kids in Virginia with her husband to be chief of the CIA base in Khost. It is a sore point for the Band of Sisters, as the women who hunted Osama were called, that in "Zero Dark Thirty," Matthews' character acted giddy. As in life, she baked a birthday cake for the Jordanian, who turned out to have explosives strapped to his body. Her friends say it was a distorted picture.

Bennett, who bonded with Matthews when they were both pregnant and throwing up in the bathroom together, said the Band of Sisters had a favorite crime fighter: Elastigirl from "The Incredibles."

When the topic of settling down comes up, Elastigirl exclaims: "I'm at the top of my game. I'm right up there with the big dogs. Girls, c'mon. Leave the saving the world to men? I don't think so."

"The entire concept for her was flexibility; she became a mom and a superhero at the same time," Bennett said. "Just think of us as a workforce of Elastigirls." □

Traditional matcha tea gets whirled, dusted, infused in U.S

CHRISTINE ARMARIO

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than a thousand years ago, Buddhist monks in Japan began a daily ritual of grinding green tea leaves into powder, mixing it into hot water with a bamboo whisk, then sharing the tea from a single cup.

Today matcha in the U.S. is considerably less monastic. It's being blended into lattes, dusted onto cheesecakes, mixed into chocolate, even infused in bourbon.

The finely ground green tea is experiencing a U.S. renaissance, with specialty matcha tea bars popping up from Los Angeles to New York and industry giants like Teavana adding it to their product lineup. Chefs are mixing matcha



In this March 4, 2015, photo, Teavana matcha tea variations, from left, Matcha Avocado smoothie, hot matcha, and cold matcha are displayed at the new Teavana Fine Teas + Tea Bar in Beverly Hills, Calif. Matcha, a finely ground green tea powder first imbibed by Buddhist monks in tea ceremonies, is now being used throughout the U.S. in ice creams, lattes and even bourbon.

Associated Press

last year by 27 percent. "It's still a coffee drinking nation," said Jonas Feliciano, a client manager at Nielsen Perishables Group. Some of the biggest matcha producers are reporting big U.S. sales growth. DoMatcha, sold at Whole Foods and U.S. specialty stores, has seen an annual spike in sales of 30 percent, while Ippodo has seen growth of 20 to 25 percent in recent years and opened its first brick-and-mortar store outside Japan in New York City in 2013. Chains like Starbucks now offer green tea lattes with matcha; Teavana sells a bamboo whisking set.

Across the Pacific, Japan hasn't been immune to the forces of cultural adaptation either.

"Matcha sweets are every-



In this Feb. 25, 2015, photo, a traditional Japanese tea set for making matcha green tea, including a whisk (chasen), bowl (chawan), and spoon (chashaku) is displayed in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

with grains, using it in toppings for Bundt cakes, and mixing it into cocktails, adding a punch of opulent green color along with a cool, mellow taste to playful culinary combinations. Teavana president Annie Young-Scrivner even uses matcha as a beauty mask. "It's fantastic," she said. "It tightens."

The uptick in U.S. demand for matcha is having a spillover effect in Japan, where production of tencha, the raw green leaves that are ground into the powder known as matcha, has doubled in Kyoto prefecture during the last 10 years, rising from 564 tons in 2003 to more than 1,163 tons in 2013. Once picked by hand, advances

in technology have paved the way for mass production. Specialized machines pluck the top leaves from tea shrubs and remove the veins and stems before the remnants are ground with granite stone and sealed in tin cans.

Industry leaders hope matcha one day will become a staple in the American kitchen the same way soy sauce did after World War II. They also hope the tea's long and rich culinary history doesn't get dissolved in the process.

"Ideally, people will learn how to prepare tea as well, not just drink it," said Kazumi Nishiguchi, a director at the Chamber of Kyoto Prefecture Tea Public Interest Incorporated Association.

"We need to export the culture, too. And it's important that it be done right."

Matcha was first consumed during China's Tsang dynasty and later was brought to Japan by priests and monks. After a bloody war with the Mongols, tea ceremonies in China came to a halt but continued to flourish across the East China Sea in Japan. The Japanese developed intricate tea ceremonies combining prayer and meditation and perfected the process for making matcha: Tea plants were covered with a shade cloth two to four weeks before harvest, when the leaves contain the most chlorophyll and nutrients, then plucked. Monks praised matcha for its calming effect.

Today more is known about the science behind matcha. Growing tea leaves in the shade boosts their amino acids, and because the entire leaf is consumed matcha also contains about 10 times as many antioxidants as regularly brewed green tea. It also gives an energy kick, but with less caffeine than coffee.

Matcha likely first entered the U.S. market through Japanese grocery stores in cities like Los Angeles, which has one of the largest Japanese populations



In this Feb. 25, 2015, photo, a traditional Japanese tea set for making matcha green tea, including a whisk (chasen), bowl (chawan), and spoon (chashaku) is displayed in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

outside Japan. In recent years tea consumption in general has taken off: The wholesale value of tea sold in the U.S. rose from less than \$2 billion in 1990 to more than \$10 billion in 2014, according to an annual report by the Tea Association of the U.S.A. Green tea has comprised a smaller share of the U.S. tea market than black, though it has started to pick up as the appeal of specialty teas expands. Still, tea interest in the U.S. has come in fits and starts; while the overall trend is up, green tea imports to the U.S. actually dipped

where," said Kenichi Kano, Ippodo's international director. "Matcha cake, matcha chocolate, matcha macaroons."

As lifestyles in Japan get busier, ready-to-go matcha beverages have replaced tea ceremonies and restaurants are experimenting with matcha powder and extract in ice cream, beer and alcohol. "Japan respects the traditional tea ceremony," said Rona Tison, a senior vice president with Ito En, one of the world's largest green tea distributors. "But they are becoming Westernized as well." □